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Toronto International Film Festival

TIFF

Metro brings you the latest movie news, star interviews and behind-the-scene events taking place at the Toronto International Film Festival. Look for our special coverage daily throughout the festival.

- Today
- **Hugh Hefner: Playboy, activist and rebel reflects, pg 27**
- **Rossellini's Green Porno, pg 28**
- **TIFF screening reviews, pg 29**
- **TIFF After Dark, pg 30**

Fashion Week

Metro launches our first instalment in an exclusive five-part series designed to get you ready for the upcoming Spring Fashion Weeks in New York, London, Milan, Paris and Toronto.

- This week: New York
- **New York Fashion Week regulars, F2**
- **Agyness Deyn on her N.Y.C. favourites, F4**
- **Metro catches up with designers Francisco Costa, F6 and Sophie Theallet, F8**

Urban Foodie p45

Urban Foodie's inaugural column serves up the Black Skirt

News on the Move

What's this bar code for?

Find out on pg 3

TIFF Clooney looking 'Up' in Toronto

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

George Clooney, sporting a bandaged hand, checks out his private jet after arriving at Pearson International Airport yesterday from Venice. The actor has two films at TIFF this year: Up In The Air and The Men Who Stare at Goats. The festival kicks off today. More coverage, page 27.

Tears for war dead

Gov. Gen. lays flowers at cenotaph in Kandahar

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean wrapped up a secret two-day visit to Afghanistan yesterday that saw her weep for Canada's war dead and for the conflict-racked country's youngest victims, insisting all the while that the sacrifices won't have been in vain.

Jean spent the duration of her visit clad in the uniform of the Canadian soldier, symbolic of her role as the Canadian military's honorary commander-in-chief. For security reasons, her visit had to be kept secret until after she had left Afghan airspace and was on her way back to Canada.

Jean wiped away tears while laying flowers at the cenotaph at Kandahar Airfield, which bears the names of 129 Canadian soldiers killed since the mission began in 2002.

"It's painful when we see our soldiers being wounded or being killed by these IEDs," Jean said.

"But we have to remember that every time they try to destroy those terrible weapons, they're saving lives of civilians here and the Afghan children."

Jean later told several hundred Canadian troops their deeds would not be forgotten. "Know that your fellow Canadians are very proud of what you accomplish here and are very much aware of the sacrifices you make," she said.

Jean became misty eyed while addressing a classroom of young Afghan women at Sayad Pasha school, not far from the base. In a land where women have traditionally not been allowed to get an education, Jean said she was thrilled with the progress that's been made.

She said the suggestion that Canada's war in Afghanistan is a "lost cause" hurts her deeply.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 14, 18

Stores may face consumer food fight over prices

GROCERIES Canadian shoppers should expect to pay more at supermarket registers this fall as food prices keep ticking higher despite a weak economy, according to industry watchers.

And chains across the country who choose to pass on the ballooning costs of food ingredients and workers' wages could face pressure from disgruntled shoppers who continue to worry about the possibility of job losses and tight credit.

Toronto shopper Merle Pierre said higher prices have left her with some bitter choices about where to buy food, forcing her to decide quality versus quantity.

"For people whose incomes are low, like mine, you have to go to No Frills," she said yesterday.

Price hike

- A report from Statistics Canada released last month said food prices continued to move higher in July, up 5.6 per cent from a year earlier.

Pierre said living on a pension leaves her with a tight food budget, which means she buys most of her groceries at low-cost stores that offer only the basics. However, this week she decided to splurge and shop at the higher end Metro store, which offers a wider variety.

The story is much the same for many Canadians and industry observers suggest the trend will continue in the near term.

Brian Yarbrough, retail analyst at Edward Jones in St. Louis, said Canadian grocers could start to see a backlash from consumers who become dissatisfied with their reluctance to lower prices.

"It's going to remain challenging for the back half of the year and they're going to have to discount somewhat to drive traffic to the stores," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local

Mississauga man charged with murder

A Mississauga man has been charged in the death of his mother. Peel regional police say they were called to a home early yesterday and found a 58-year-old woman, with obvious signs of trauma. Investigators arrested Nigel Phillips, 28, and he has been charged with second-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2009 Festival of Media Awards

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Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

John Sewell breaks down the issues affecting Torontonians.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video A new poll finds Michael Ignatieff's election sabre-rattling has put a dent in his popularity at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean wraps up a secret two-day visit to Afghanistan, vows the war is not a 'lost cause' at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Coupland's latest offering

Canadian author, artist unveils design of new downtown park

It will probably always be known as the park with the big red canoe.

But the new $8-million downtown green space, designed by Vancouver artist and writer Douglas Coupland and still to be named, alludes to many classic Canadian icons — including a mini beaver dam, giant multicoloured navigational buoys complete with water jets, and a pathway called the Terry Fox Miracle Mile.

A contest is planned to name the park, but area Coun. Adam Vaughan said it's already being referred to as the park with the red canoe.

The oversize canoe sticks out from a hill near the edge of the Gardiner Expressway, bringing nature to the big city.

"To me, what's going to be interesting is the relationship people inside it have to the people driving by. Are they going to wave? Are they going to be indifferent?" said Coupland, at yesterday's opening ceremony at Concord CityPlace, in the heart of the old railway lands.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The city's newest artsy, urban eight-acre park for Torontonians located in the heart of the city was designed by Canadian artist and author Douglas Coupland.

For Coupland, a special part of the park is the running perimeter — marked by red maple leaves — that measures out exactly one mile, in honour of one-legged runner Terry Fox who ran a daily marathon back in 1980 before his cancer returned and ended his quest to cross the country. Along the path are giant images of Fox memorabilia, from a lucky sock to running shorts.

His brother, Darrell, who was on hand yesterday, said the tribute was ideal given that Lake Shore Boulevard West is visible just to the south.

"That's where Terry ran out of Toronto 29 years ago. This is a perfect location," Fox said, adding he hopes residents will come often to complete Terry's journey. "This wonderful piece celebrates my brother and honours the city of Toronto, the place where the run really gained momentum."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Scan this barcode for more Local news on your smartphone.
Find out how to scan this barcode on pg 3

U of T library closes book on free outsider use

LEND After years of giving graduate students, faculty and staff at other universities unlimited access to its network of libraries, vast collection of books and extensive archival materials, the University of Toronto is asking for a pay back.

In a surprise move to begin Oct. 1, the University of Toronto will require library users from other Canadian universities to pay a fee of up to $200 a year for using its library services — something that has been free to all graduate students, faculty and staff until now.

The university says the decision was made to help ease "financial pressures" facing the libraries this year.

But cash-strapped graduate students who rely on U of T's rare and extensive collection, mostly stored at Robarts Library, to write their masters thesis or doctoral dissertation, say it is a cost they can't afford.

"These are people who are already getting by on $16,400 a year or less, so $200 is a significant problem for students already tens of thousands of dollars in debt," said Ian Milligan, a Canadian history PhD student at York University, who uses Robarts Library once or twice a week for research.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$15M Last year, the province gave Robarts library a $15-million boost for renovations. At the time, university president David Naylor said it was a building open to over 10,000 visitors a day, including "members of the community, and scholars and students from other universities as well."

Woman killed by GO train

ACCIDENT A 32-year-old woman is dead after been struck by a GO train south of York University stop.

The train, which was travelling north to Barrie, left Union Station at 4:40 p.m.

About 20 minutes later, as it chugged across an overpass near Caledonia Avenue and Lawrence Avenue, it hit a woman, who was crossing the tracks with a male friend.

The woman and her friend had squeezed through the fence, which cordoned off the overpass, in order to take a shortcut, said Const. Hugh Smith.

The victim's friend managed to get off the tracks in time.

It is still unclear why the woman did not also escape; there is no evidence that she was stuck or didn't hear the train coming. But investigators do have enough evidence to declare the accident a death by misadventure. Riders on the 4:40 p.m. were stuck in the train for several hours while police searched the scene and cleared the tracks. Morning service on the line is expected to run on schedule, said GO representative, Vanessa Thomas. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GO train

- The Barrie-Bradford GO line runs four trains during the morning rush hour and four during the evening rush.
- The 4:40 p.m. train was the second of the evening.
- The passengers of the remaining two trains were put on a train that took a different route just after 6 p.m

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Man found stabbed near school

A 21-year-old man was taken to hospital in critical condition with a single stab wound yesterday morning. He was found close to David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute. Police are investigating if the proximity of the school played a part in the stabbing, said Staff Sgt. Paul Martin. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Street racer law questioned

Ruling makes it unconstitutional to convict on speeding alone

An Ontario street racing law hailed as the country's harshest could be in limbo after a judge ruled a section of the legislation is unconstitutional because it can impose jail time even though the speeder can't defend against the charges.

Judge G.J. Griffin of the Ontario Court of Justice in Napanee, Ont., overturned the conviction of a woman clocked at more than 50 kilometres per hour over the limit because the way stunt driving is classified means once the offence is proven by facts, it cannot be defended.

Street racers will still be charged under the stunt racing laws, but it will be now unconstitutional to convict someone on excessive speed alone unless the judge's ruling is successfully appealed.

Attorney General Chris Bentley said the province will appeal the decision and doesn't believe the law goes against the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"From time to time you get decisions that are ones that you wish to appeal, and we'll be seeking leave to appeal this one," he said, calling the legislation an important public safety initiative.

The stiffer fines and automatic suspensions of driver's licences were ushered in 2007 by former attorney general Michael Bryant, who has since left the government and is facing charges after a highly publicized incident that claimed the life of a bicycle courier. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley said he will be appealing a ruling yesterday that made it unconstitutional to convict people as street racers on excessive speed alone.

Scooter ads spoof TTC's red logo in bus shelters

TRANSIT It's a cheeky idea — bus shelter ads that use the familiar TTC logo to suggest there might be a better way to travel than the Red Rocket.

The TTC, however, is taking seriously a marketing campaign that makes liberal use of the familiar red transit agency shield to sell motorized scooters.

The logo has been altered and appears over the words "Take the Kymco." The bus shelter ads also refer to a website on which the same altered logo appears on a subway station sign.

That is an infringement of the TTC's copyright, says spokesman Brad Ross.

Upon learning of the ads yesterday, transit officials contacted the city — which is responsible for bus shelter ads — requesting the posters be removed. And its lawyers are drafting letters to the advertiser, the Toronto dealership for Kymco scooters.

The TTC, which controls the ads that appear on its own property, won't permit marketing that suggests people not take transit, said Brad Ross.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dump Site 41 headed for close?

WASTE Simcoe County has cracked open the door to sending its unrecyclable waste to the planned energy-from-waste incinerator in Durham Region — a first step in permanently cancelling the opening of Tiny Township's notorious Dump Site 41.

The move follows a victory for a coalition of First Nations people, environmentalists, farmers and neighbours concerned that the dump would pollute a pristine aquifer.

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Three teens charged after boy robbed, beaten

Three 17-year-old boys have been charged with beating and robbing a 15-year-old boy. The fight happened on Tuesday around noon hour near Midland and Rural avenues in Agincourt. All three accused face robbery, assault, weapon and forcible confinement charges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Schools gets 'Future' labs

Controversial donation by electronics chain goes ahead

The Toronto school board marked a turning point yesterday when it officially opened two high school computer labs funded by a corporate donor.

Future Shop put up $50,000 each for the Future Generation Tech Labs unveiled at Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute and Western Technical-Commercial School. The board will place a framed "thank you" card in the rooms to acknowledge the one-time donations.

The Toronto District School Board's agreement with the electronics chain caused controversy when announced last spring, after the chain asked that the labs be painted in its signature red and grey colours and get placed in schools located within seven kilometres of a Future Shop.

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute opens one of two Future Shop computer labs in high schools. New school board policy allows the board to take corporate money for capital projects.

But yesterday, as board chair John Campbell looked over the red-and-grey tech room at Marc Garneau on Overlea Blvd., he said, "I don't know what all the fuss was about. It's just a nicely painted room. There's really nothing that would overly identify this as a Future Shop room."

Some students, however, quickly embraced the connection.

"Definitely," said 16-year-old Farzaneh Irani, when asked if the donation would sway her to shop at Future Shop.

"Best Buy didn't give us anything," agreed classmate Alysha Addetia.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bentley asks for end to legal aid boycott

LAW Attorney General Chris Bentley is encouraging criminal lawyers to stop boycotting the legal aid system, saying the province will consider enhanced fees for complex trials and end its practice of paying expert defence witnesses about half of what prosecution experts get.

Bentley unveiled more details yesterday of how the province would like to use the additional $150 million it plans to spend on legal aid services over the next four years, including more mediation for people immersed in family law disputes and expanding information programs for litigants entering a courthouse for the first time.

"We have the money. We have our goals."
Chris Bentley, attorney general

In an interview, Bentley said he plans to set up five working groups of "front-line practitioners" to discuss how the money should be used, part of what he is calling legal aid's "transformation plan." In the meantime, defence lawyers, who launched their protest June 1, should "continue to take cases," he suggests.

"We have the money. We have our goals," Bentley said. "I think we (now) want to get the good advice of lawyers. We want to know how the increased funding … will be translating into better support for the people who need access to (legal aid) services."

The legal aid budget will increase to $315 million the first year, $330 million in year two, $345 million the next year and $360 million after that.

Frank Addario, president of the Criminal Lawyers Association, said while it is "a very good step," legal aid's base funding will still be "not sufficient" to attract junior lawyers and stop senior counsel from fleeing the program.

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Cops seeking shooter after pair injured in Kensington Market

Police are still searching for five suspects from Tuesday night's shooting south of Kensington Market. A 21-year-old man was shot in the chest and a 17-year-old man was shot in the arm around 11 p.m. in what police believe was an attempted murder. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

House arrest for hockey fraudster

SENTENCE One player arrived from Australia chasing a dream.

Others from Chicago hoped some big-time hockey scout would recognize their potential for a pro career while playing in the Canadian Junior Elite Hockey League.

But the elite junior league, a four-week camp and a sports-minded college called the Walton Gates Academy existed only on paper, created by a cash-hungry entrepreneur who "sold dreams" to young players.

Yesterday, Randy Gumbley, 42, of Mississauga was sentenced to a month of house arrest and 11 months of curfew after pleading guilty to defrauding the public of more than $5,000.

The sentence imposed by Madam Justice Anne Nelson might have been stiffer, perhaps even real jail, had Gumbley not agreed to pay full restitution for bilking nine victims out of more than $100,000.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Abdal Salal, owner of McFalafel, now called MoFalafel, on Dundas Street West, poses in front of his store yesterday.

McFalafel owner forced to change store's name

RESTAURANT For now, "Mc" will be "Mo."

But the owner of a start-up falafel joint says that once MoFalafel makes him enough money to pay for legal costs, he will stand up to McDonald's and reclaim the chosen name for his Dundas Street West restaurant, McFalafel.

"After I have enough money, I'll go fight," said Abdal Salam yesterday.

Little guys can and do win, sometimes, against the litigious hamburger giant, which has taken a long list of companies to court for allegedly violating its trademark McLanguage.

McFalafel opened several months ago inside a Hasty Market convenience store on Dundas near Islington Avenue.

Two months ago McDonald's lawyers sent him a letter asking him to change his restaurant's name. At first he didn't. But three weeks ago, he caved. Red stickers transformed the small c's on his signs into o's — but they can and will be removed once he has enough cash for a legal battle, he says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kids get an 'F' for not eating fruits

Report should be a 'wake-up call': Doctor

A new report card from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario says the province's children score an F for their consumption of fruit and vegetables.

It finds that only one in eight children eat five or more servings of fruit and veggies a day, compared to one in five kids who did so according to a survey a decade ago.

The foundation calls it "disappointing."

As well, the percentage of kids reported to be physically active three or more times per week fell to 57 per cent in the new survey compared with 66 per cent in 1998.

The proportion of those eating whole grain bread and cereals rose to almost half from one-third, but consumption of junk food remained about the same.

Overall, the foundation says if the situation doesn't improve, there will be a generation of kids at risk of developing problems such as high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

"This report should serve as a wake-up call that the health of our children is not making the grade," Dr. Marco Di Buono, director of research at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, said in a statement yesterday.

"Despite mandatory nutrition labelling and a new edition of Canada's Food Guide, we're not seeing bigger gains in healthy eating."

The 2009 survey involved 1,189 Ontario parents of children aged six to 12, and results are considered accurate within 3.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20 — except for the physical activity category, where the margin of error is five percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, not enough kids enjoy fruits and vegetables as much as this guy.

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Ottawa, province chipping in for pedestrian bridge
Ottawa and Queen's Park will each contribute $5 million to a fully enclosed pedestrian bridge connecting the Pickering Town Centre with the GO station on the other side of Highway 401 — the only pedestrian passage in the Toronto area to cross Highway 401. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Co-accused in biker killings trial testifies

The first of eight biker gang members to die one night in April 2006 at a farm in southwestern Ontario was shot only because one of the accused, who was just trying to defuse a tense situation, "flinched," a London, Ont., court heard yesterday.

Six men, several of whom are allegedly linked to a rival faction of the Bandidos, are on trial charged with eight counts of first-degree murder. The bodies of eight men were found stuffed into vehicles down the road from that farm, which belonged to one of the accused, Wayne Kellestine.

The defence began its case yesterday with accused Michael Sandham taking the stand.

The night of April 7, 2006, eight members of the Toronto Bandidos were in Kellestine's barn with Kellestine, and the other accused hiding, Sandham testified. Sandham had recently learned the Toronto members were planning to kill him and overheard them discussing it from his hiding place.

When Sandham, accused Dwight Mushey, and a man known as MH because he is now an informant, popped out of their hiding places, one of the Toronto men, Luis Raposo, reached for a gun, Sandham testified.

Sandham told Raposo to stop, that they just wanted to talk, but "he's just grinning, ignoring me and he shoots." The shot hit Sandham, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, and on impact he fired the gun in his hand accidentally, Sandham said.

"I flinched ... and my gun went off," Sandham testified.

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Residents pushed to retire old mowers

RECYCLING Torontonians are being urged to turn in their old, polluting two-stroke lawn mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers and chainsaws for recycling. People can now take their worn-out two-strokers to community environment days. The machines will be handed off to auto wreckers to be drained and recycled on a break-even basis.

"It's more of a goodwill service for the city and the community for us to pick these things up, drain the fluids and send them off to be shredded," said David Gold, owner of Standard Auto Wreckers in Scarborough. "The components can be reused, the aluminum and brass and copper and steel." Some 14 environment days remain on the schedule for Saturdays through Oct. 24 (check www. toronto.ca /livegreen for details). The city plans to replace 1,380 machines used by departments such as parks and forestry over the next five years.

"We know we cannot solve the city's air quality problems alone," Mayor David Miller said yesterday. "We need the help of residents." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Smitherman trying to duck protesters?

WIND Opponents of new wind farms in Ontario are accusing Energy Minister George Smitherman of trying to duck protesters.

A group called Wind Concerns Ontario says Smitherman's office hasn't told anyone the energy minister will attend today's grand opening of the Wolfe Island wind project near Kingston.

The anti-windmill activists say Smitherman is "deathly afraid" he'll face protests at Wolfe Island after he ran into about 50 protesters at a wind farm near Kincardine in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military confirms fatal chopper crash in Afghanistan
Military investigators have confirmed a helicopter crashed in Afghanistan when it clipped a security wall July 6, killing three soldiers. The flight-safety probe concluded the pilot's view was obstructed by a blinding cloud of dust. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Quebec minister steps down

A cabinet minister in Jean Charest's provincial government resigned yesterday following conflict-of-interest allegations. Standing alongside the premier, Labour Minister David Whissell, left, announced his decision to step down. The youthful minister had come under fire amid reports of untendered public contracts to a construction company he co-owns.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Life sentence a first: Crown

Serial drunk driver convicted

It's not the sentence they were looking for, but Crown prosecutors say a legal precedent was still set yesterday.

A Canadian court has, for the first time ever, sentenced a drunk driver to life in prison, said Crown lawyer Joey Dubois.

Roger Walsh, 57, was handed the ruling in a courtroom west of Montreal. He pleaded guilty to mowing down Anee Khudaverdian, a wheelchair-bound woman, last year after a night of binge drinking. It was his 19th drunk-driving conviction.

Quebec court judge Michel Mercier declared the man incorrigible and said he would likely reoffend.

But he did not hand prosecutors the prize they were hoping for: Dangerous offender status for Walsh. The Crown had been seeking to make Walsh the first Canadian subjected to that designation for drunk driving.

The judge concluded that the designation — which has been reserved for the worst criminals, like murderers and serial rapists — did not apply in this case.

Prosecutors have now tried on three occasions but no Canadian judge has ever granted a dangerous offender tag for an impaired driving conviction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sara Khudaverian holds a photo of her late daughter, Anee, who was killed by drunk driver Roger Walsh, as she leaves the courthouse yesterday in Valleyfield, Que.

Social networking porn spam trumping porn email

ONLINE Porn spammers are trying to get some lovin' on Twitter and other social networking sites.

In the last year, email porn spam has been dropping as hackers and the adult industry move more and more to the increasingly popular sites, say web security companies.

On Twitter, it begins with a notice that someone you've never heard of is following you. You check them out and may find a picture of a naked woman in an interesting position whose tweets consist of links to more naughty pictures.

Some are less explicit but, in general, the porn industry isn't known for subtlety.

"They're always using the big words, they're always using the flashing lights," said Alexandru Catalin Cosoi of Romanian-based BitDefender. "That's their business." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spam numbers

- Alexandru Catalin Cosoi of BitDefender estimates that as many as 15 per cent of tweets are porn spam, about 10 per cent of traffic on MySpace and seven per cent on Facebook.

News in brief

OIL The balloting happens in Oslo, but the results may be felt in Alberta. Norwegian voters go to the polls Monday and parties have said they want the state-owned energy giant Statoil to pull out of Alberta's oilsands. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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B.C. Mountie charged with assault

An RCMP officer in British Columbia has been charged after a woman alleged she was hit in the face during an altercation with police in Kelowna. Const. Steve Conlon has been charged with assault causing bodily harm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Has Iggy got it wrong?

Liberal leader takes poll beating

Pity Michael Ignatieff. A new poll suggests Canadians think the Liberal leader's wrong to try to force an election this fall and his popularity has nosedived as a result.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey also suggests Liberal fortunes have dipped, with the Conservatives taking a slight lead nationally — 34 per cent to 31.

The NDP is at 15 per cent, the Greens at 10, and the Bloc Québécois at 8.

Michael Ignatieff

Respondents with a negative impression of Michael Ignatieff jumped 15 points from March — to 41 per cent.

Thirty-nine per cent had a favourable impression, down six points.

Stephen Harper isn't doing much better — impressions of the prime minister remained virtually unchanged with 44 per cent having a favourable opinion and 45 per cent not.

The poll of just over 2,000 Canadians was conducted on Aug. 27 to Sept. 6.

And it is considered accurate to within 2.2 percentage points 19 times in 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll pointers

- The Conservatives have taken a slight lead nationally — 34 per cent to the Liberals' 31.
- The NDP is at 15 per cent, the Greens at 10, and the Bloc at 8.

$200 million Rounding out a handout

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Industry Minister Tony Clement holds a piece of material used in aircraft construction at the University of Montreal yesterday. Clement announced an additional $200 million for the government's Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative, which provides funding for projects in the aerospace, defence, space and security industries.

Leaders in hybrid heaven

ENVIRONMENT When the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers meet next week in Saint John, N.B., they'll be doing more than just talking about environmentally friendly practices.

The conference organizers will use eight hybrid vehicles to shuttle the leaders around.

The new hybrid Ford Escapes are on loan from the province's environment department.

The environment and energy are among the topics up for discussion during the two-day meeting.

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham says they'll also discuss trade issues and the pandemic of the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Owning a home becomes easier

HOUSING It is becoming even more affordable to own a home across Canada, a new report shows.

But costs could creep up again soon as the real estate market rebounds, the report warns.

RBC senior economist Robert Hogue said home ownership became more affordable for the fifth straight quarter in Canada, and has been restored to pre-housing boom levels.

But Hogue warns the trend could soon reverse as the real-estate market recovers.

Hogue said Canadians shouldn't expect a steep jump in the cost of home ownership. That's because of high unemployment and Canada's slow crawl out of the recession.

In Toronto, Hogue found 46.5 per cent of household income went toward owning a home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Sep 13/sqv/c6.

Holguin 4-Star $397
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Sep 17/nol/ts.

Jamaica 4-Star $447
Holiday Inn Sunspree + taxes & fees $265
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Sep 19/nol/ts.

Panama 4-Star $537
Royal Decameron + taxes & fees $197
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Florida Fly & Drive $249
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Las Vegas 4 Nights $255
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Firefighters injured in Meaford blaze

Two firefighters are in hospital recovering from smoke inhalation after battling a blaze early yesterday in Meaford, Ont. The fire broke out at about 6 a.m. in a building containing an LCBO outlet, a restaurant and an upstairs apartment. Both firefighters were listed in stable condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mission unlikely to succeed: Fowler

Diplomat says time and energy invested in Afghanistan better spent elsewhere

A Canadian diplomat who endured four months of captivity at the hands of al-Qaida says the West lacks the stomach to deal effectively with the "complex misery" that is Afghanistan.

In the second part of an interview on CBC's The National broadcast yesterday, Robert Fowler called the international community's objectives in the insurgency-racked country "noble" but unlikely to succeed.

"I just don't think, in the West, that we are prepared to invest the blood or treasure to get this done," Fowler said.

"It's not just the commitment and the wasting of our youth and the enormous, enormous cost in difficult financial times. It's to get it done, we will have to do some unpleasant things. I mean some deeply hard (things)."

"I just don't think, in the West, that we are prepared to invest the blood or treasure to get this done."
Robert Fowler

Fowler did not elaborate on what kinds of unpleasant things he believed would need doing.

The now-retired veteran diplomat and his aide, Louis Guay, spent four months as hostages of al-Qaida militants in Mali after being taken at gunpoint last December in Niger, where Fowler was the UN special envoy.

Fowler suggested the energy and time Canada is investing in the eight-year-old Afghan mission would be better spent elsewhere.

The veteran civil servant and diplomat described the Afghan intervention as one of the most "complex, challenging" missions, adding, "This is not a nice war."

To date, 129 Canadian soldiers have died on the mission. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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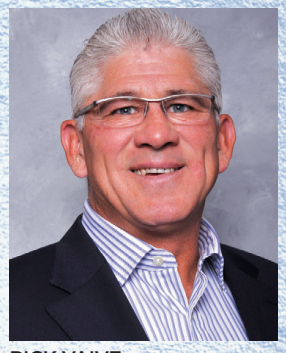
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the Bay

Military justice system called 'cruel, unusual'

TRIAL Canada's military justice system was subjected to a stinging critique yesterday by the lawyer for a young Canadian soldier convicted in the accidental shooting death of a comrade in Afghanistan.

Maj. Steve Turner, who represents Cpl. Matthew Wilcox, told his client's sentencing hearing that the limited range of sentencing options under military law is unconstitutional as it constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

"We've really tied our hands in terms of what we can impose in terms of punishment," Turner told Cmdr. Peter Lamont, the military judge who presided over the nine-week court martial at the Victoria Park garrison in Sydney.

Yesterday, Turner said the military's so-called Scale of Punishments within the National Defence Act has not evolved much since the 1950s, which means military judges don't have the same tools that civilian judges do.

Unlike civilian judges, military judges do not have the option of imposing conditional sentences, intermittent sentences, probation or suspended sentences.

The sentencing hearing is expected to wrap up tomorrow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Convicted

- Cpl. Matthew Wilcox, a 24-year-old reservist from Glace Bay, N.S., was convicted in July of criminal negligence causing the death of Cpl. Kevin Megeney, a close friend and fellow reservist.

News in brief

COURT A former private school teacher who sexually assaulted one of her teenage students and then gossiped about it to his friends is going to jail for six months and will spend two years on probation. A provincial court judge in Vancouver heard the teacher, who can't be named, convinced the Grade 11 student that if he were sexually active he would be more confident. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Halifax appoints public spending watchdog
Halifax Regional Municipality now has an auditor general. Larry Munroe will help council monitor the expenditure of public funds and whether it is getting value for money in the operation of the municipality. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wafergate publisher returns to paper

Former N.B. newspaper head will be under supervision after Harper controversy

Irving-owned Brunswick News Inc. says Jamie Irving is returning to the Fredericton-based company as vice-president, six weeks after he left the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal as the newspaper apologized to the prime minister for a story that said he slipped a communion wafer into his jacket pocket.

Irving left as publisher of the Telegraph-Journal in July after the paper issued a front-page apology to Stephen Harper over the story that said he put the communion wafer in his pocket at the funeral of former governor general Romeo LeBlanc — a charge the prime minister denied.

Jamie Irving

The apology said the story was inaccurate and "should not have been published."

The company also announced yesterday the appointment of Neil Reynolds as editor-at-large of its newspapers.

It says Reynolds will focus on "the development and oversight of the editorial policies, standards and journalistic practices of the newspapers."

Reynolds, an Ottawa-based columnist for The Globe and Mail, is former editor-in-chief of the Vancouver Sun and the Ottawa Citizen, but he also previously served as editor of the Irving-owned Telegraph-Journal and the now-defunct Saint John Times-Globe.

Irving will be in charge of the newspapers' daily operations, but will report to Reynolds on editorial matters and journalistic practices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa reverses age limit on transit passes

STUDENTS Ottawa's city councillors have voted unanimously to reverse the age limitations placed on student bus passes, after students protested the move.

Post-secondary students in Ottawa had demanded the city reverse the new policy that limited the discounted transit passes to students aged 27 or younger.

Since its implementation in July, students have been vocally opposed to the age cap and have collected thousands of petition signatures against it.

Last week, students successfully lobbied Ottawa's Transit Committee to recommend reversing the decision.

Council voted for the reversal this morning.

"I'm grateful that city councillors have recognized that a student is a student no matter what their age," said Erik Halliwell, president of the Carleton University Students Association.

Previously, all full time students were eligible for a student pass, which saved them $19.50 every month, or almost $240 over the course of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. gallery hangs on to 85 disputed paintings

COURTS The Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton has won a lengthy court battle and gets to keep 85 works of art whose ownership was disputed by the U.K. Beaverbrook Foundation.

An appeals panel has upheld a 2007 ruling by former Supreme Court of Canada justice Peter Cory. The foundation claimed 133 paintings at the gallery were just on loan, while the gallery maintained the works were gifts from the late Lord Beaverbrook.

Gallery lawyer, Larry Lowenstein, says the foundation may have to forfeit the balance of the paintings to pay some of the court costs. Legal counsel for the foundation said it's disappointed with the ruling, but relieved the process is over.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Get help, while helping others ...

Scientists at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, in affiliation with the University of Toronto, are conducting a study investigating psychotherapy treatments for depression.

Participants will be offered 16 weeks of Cognitive Therapy (CBT) or Interpersonal Therapy (IPT).

PEOPLE WITH DEPRESSION EXPERIENCE MANY OF THESE SIGNS:
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Former B.C. finance minister joins law firm

A former B.C. finance minister has landed another plum position. Carole Taylor has joined Borden Ladner Gervais, Canada's largest law firm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Short flight time for navy choppers downplayed

The federal government now says the first 19 helicopters in a new navy fleet aren't expected to pass a flying endurance test at relatively mild air temperatures of about 15 C, clarifying an earlier statement that said the aircraft won't pass the test at "high-end" temperatures.

Doug Baker, the director of the maritime helicopter project, says the first version of the Cyclones will be accepted even if they're 21 minutes short of the required two hours and 50 minutes of flying time.

Baker said the government decided to accept the helicopters in order to let the military do operational testing and training while the aircraft's manufacturer, Sikorsky, makes improvements.

Nineteen of the 28 helicopters are set to be delivered by June 2012, at which point Sikorsky will be required to retrofit the craft to ensure they meet the original requirement.

Sen. Colin Kenny, chairman of the Senate committee on national security and defence, said the shortfall is "very worrying" because delivery was already delayed two years, and the Sea Kings may now have to fly longer than expected.

"For a maritime helicopter, the amount of time it can fly is critically important."
Sen. Colin Kenny

"For a maritime helicopter, the amount of time it can fly is critically important. If you don't have enough time and you're on a mission, particularly a search and rescue, you may find yourself in the drink," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Saskatchewan seeks to seize profits from killer's book

LAW The Saskatchewan government says it will go after the profits of convicted wife killer Colin Thatcher's book and the money could end up with his children.

Book

- Thatcher has said he doesn't think the law applies to his book because it's about his dealings with the justice system and not the murder itself.

Justice Minister Don Morgan says officials have finished reading the book and believe it is covered by a new law meant to stop criminals from keeping the proceeds if they sell their crime stories.

The law says the proceeds could go to victims, their family members or a victims fund.

Morgan acknowledges it's possible that Thatcher's three children with JoAnn Wilson could benefit, although he says no decision has been made. Thatcher, a former Saskatchewan cabinet minister, was convicted of killing his former wife in 1983. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CALGARY More trouble has surfaced in the City of Calgary's communications network, two days after its 9-1-1 emergency call system briefly crashed. The 3-1-1 call centre that connects to almost every civic department went down in the morning for about 45 minutes, but enquiries were redirected to a backup system. Minutes later, Calgary Transit encountered trouble with its own system, including the main customer information line.

WINDSOR Students at a Windsor, Ont., high school were evacuated after something got into the air in one hallway. Several students and teachers at Walkerville high school were affected by the strong smell on the second floor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russia flexes muscle for neighbours
A Russian bill expanding the legal reasons for using military force abroad won a quick preliminary approval in the lower house of parliament yesterday. The motion is seen by some as a sign that the Kremlin is taking a tougher posture in relations with ex-Soviet neighbours after last year's war with Georgia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Hubble sends home some pics

A refurbished Hubble Space Telescope is showing Earth the sharpest photos yet of cosmic beauty, left, complete with heavenly glows. NASA yesterday unveiled the first deep space photos taken by Hubble since its billion-dollar repair mission earlier this year. That work included installing two new cameras, other science instruments and replacing broken parts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Somali court carries out amputations, lashing

SOMALIA A Somali Islamic court hacked a hand each from two screaming men accused of theft and lashed another accused of rape yesterday, officials and a witness said, the latest in a series of harsh punishments that have elicited both admiration and revulsion from the war-weary population. A witness said two masked men carried out the amputations immediately after Sheik Abdibasit Mohamed, an Islamic judge in northern Mogadishu, pronounced the sentence. Al-Shabab militia spokesman Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage said the three men had admitted the charges against them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Somali justice

- Four Somali men had their hands amputated in June after being accused of theft, one of several such incidents, and Amnesty International reported last October that a 13-year-old girl was publicly stoned to death by 50 militia men after she had reported being gang-raped.

News in brief

HIJACKING A jetliner from Cancun was briefly hijacked as it landed in Mexico City yesterday. The hijackers released all passengers shortly before police stormed the plane, and the crew emerged unharmed moments later. Police, who did not fire a shot, led as many as eight handcuffed men away from the aircraft. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama makes his case

U.S. President Barack Obama summoned Congress to enact sweeping health care legislation last night, declaring the "time for bickering is over" and the moment has arrived to help millions who have insurance and many more without it.

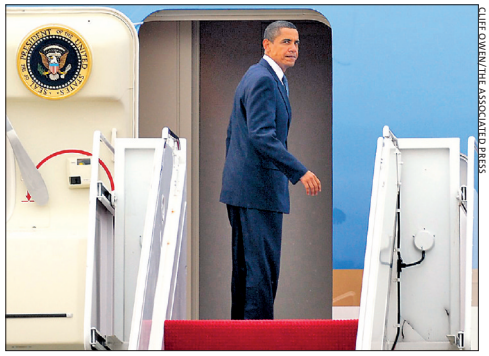
His nationally televised address on Capitol Hill came as Obama's popularity is falling, opposition Republicans are on the attack and his fellow Democrats are divided about what kind of plan to pursue.

"I am not the first president to take up this cause, but I am determined to be the last," Obama said.

The nastiness of August's health care debate reached into the U.S. Capitol as Obama tried to move his reform plan forward.

South Carolina Republican Rep. Joe Wilson shouted "You lie!" after Obama had talked about illegal immigrants.

Earlier, Republicans laughed when Obama acknowledged that there are still significant details to be worked out before a health care overhaul can be passed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CLIFF OWEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama boards Air Force One yesterday.

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Israel at fault: EU Commissioner

MIDDLE EAST Israel's continued settlement activity on Palestinian land is the main obstacle to a resumption of the Mideast peace process, European Union External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said yesterday. "We have to be realistic and see that this settlement issue is at the moment an issue that blocks the negotiations," Ferrero-Waldner told reporters.

Ferrero-Waldner said the quartet leading Mideast peace efforts — the United Nations, EU, Russia and the United States — will meet on the sidelines of the UN General assembly later this month to discuss the issue. The European Union has adopted a more critical attitude toward Israel since last year's Gaza War. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Commandos free reporter held by Taliban

British commandos freed a New York Times reporter in a raid on a Taliban hideout in Afghanistan. A translator and a soldier were killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATO tastes a French flavour

Non-American at helm in North America

In a historic change of command, a French general yesterday took charge of NATO's only strategic command in North America.

The position is traditionally filled by four-star U.S. generals.

The switch came as the alliance's secretary-general said he's concerned about growing public skepticism about the war effort in Afghanistan.

In remarks prepared for the change of command, NATO's Anders Fogh Rasmussen said: "The public discourse on the effort in Afghanistan has started to go in the wrong direction."

"What we need is a clear step toward transition to Afghan leadership in all areas — security, health, education, development and governance," he said after French Gen. Stéphane Abrial took over before an international audience of 800 military personnel and civilians in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Flanked by the French and American flags, Abrial become the first non-American officer in the alliance's 60-year history to permanently fill a command post.

Abrial, 55, is one of NATO's two supreme allied commanders.

He succeeds U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis at NATO's Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk.

An escalation of the war and rising allied casualties have sparked criticism in some NATO nations about the continued military commitment to a mission that originated as a peacekeeping operation after the ouster of the Taliban regime in 2001.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JASON HIRSCHFELD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New NATO commander Stéphane Abrial, right, shares a laugh with outgoing NATO commander Gen. James Mattis during a ceremony yesterday in Norfolk, Va.

Karzai backs commission

AFGHANISTAN President Hamid Karzai stressed his support for Afghanistan's election commission yesterday as international trust in the group appeared to erode following allegations of widespread fraud in last month's presidential poll.

Karzai's praise for the Independent Election Commission came a day after it announced preliminary results giving him more than 50 per cent of the vote, the threshold for avoiding a run-off against his top challenger, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

The Aug. 20 election, the second direct presidential vote in Afghanistan's history, was marred by attacks by Taliban insurgents and has been tainted by allegations of massive fraud ranging from ballot-box stuffing to fake polling stations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

DYNASTY Ted Kennedy Jr. says he has thought about following in his late father's footsteps and running for political office, but he says he has no immediate plans to do so. He says his "primary job" is being father to his two young children. He may consider politics after his son and daughter grow older when they "will not want to hang out" with him. Sen. Ted Kennedy died Aug. 25 of brain cancer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I cleansed my body and the kilos started melting off!

Lise Marie lives in Norway and works at a car dealership. She has always loved candy and sodas, but after years of low energy and steady weight gain, she decided to make a change in her life.

"In only 10 weeks I lost 25 kilos! It was wonderful and I am in no doubt that Biofirm was the reason for my success. It was like getting a kick-start back to my old self. I felt more energetic from the start and that motivated me to change my lifestyle."

Kick-starting the diet

"I have always been a sugar junkie. I really needed it to keep my energy high all day. But it made me gain weight and at my highest, I weighed 94 kilos.

Then I read about Biofirm in a newspaper, and about how it would help my body expel toxins and thereby lose weight. I bought a package and started taking the tablets every day, while drinking lots of water and eating almost as usual.

Very quickly I noticed a change. Initially I didn't feel so great, but then after a week, I felt better and more energetic, which then made me want to move around more. After about 2 weeks the weight started dropping fast. At one point my mother actually starting getting worried about me, which I can understand. But I was sure it was because my body needed the cleanse, in order to release the fat."

Maintaining my weight

"Today my body feels light and I can fit my old clothes again. My sugar cravings are much weaker, and I am more physically active. That combination has really worked for me, to keep the weight off. Now I maintain my healthy weight with a cleanse once a year."

Biofirm is a Danish Detox product used for cleansing the body and reducing weight. Its the No. 1 detox product in Europe. In Canada, it can be bought in most pharmacies and health food stores.

WHAT IS DETOXING?

Spas and cleanses are not only reserved for the rich and famous. The herbal tablet Biofirm has helped thousands get a healthier lifestyle.

Whenever you eat food it gets processed in the body, to create energy. In the process, waste products, or toxins, are created. Other toxins, such as chemicals, air particles, pesticides and heavy metals also enter your body. But whether its toxins your body makes or toxins your body receives, they all need to be excreted. If they are not, they affect your health and you start getting symptoms like fatigue, repressed immune system, skin problems, joint problems, mental cloudiness, increased fat accumulation and problems losing weight.

What is Biofirm?

Biofirm is an herbal tablet that contains well-known and tested plant extracts. The natural active ingredients support the livers function and increase detoxification. The herbs also help the kidneys increase the urine production, to support the lymph system and its excretion of toxins.

Facts about Biofirm!

- Biofirm works without having to fast
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- Biofirm is the No.1 detox product in Europe and was voted detox product of the year in the UK!
- Biofirm helps the body release toxins that are stored in fat cells.
- Biofirms helps kick-start weight loss.

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Japan coalition formed
Japan's next ruling party agreed yesterday to form a coalition with two parties, one of which wants to close a U.S. base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresh nuclear warning

U.S. report shows Iran closer to weapon ability

The United States warned yesterday that Iran is close to having the capabilities to produce a nuclear weapon and urged Tehran to join in fresh talks with key allies about its disputed intentions.

Glyn Davies, Washington's chief envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the latest report by the nuclear watchdog shows Tehran is either very near or already in possession of sufficient low-enriched uranium to produce one nuclear weapon, if the decision were made to further enrich it to weapons-grade.

"This ongoing enrichment activity ... moves Iran closer to a dangerous and destabilizing possible breakout capacity," Davies told the agency's 35-nation board of governors.

The latest agency report describes how Iran now has, at a minimum, 1,430 kilograms of low-enriched uranium hexafluoride, he added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama

- U.S. President Barack Obama and European allies have given Iran until the end of September to take up an offer of nuclear talks with six world powers and trade incentives should it suspend uranium enrichment activities.

China **Nine is nice**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A couple, among tens of thousands of couples in China who tried to get married yesterday, show their marriage certificates at a marriage registry office yesterday. Nine is considered a lucky day to be married on in Chinese culture and yesterday was the ninth day, in the ninth month of 2009.

Violence against women on the rise: UN official

ECONOMY The global economic downturn may be leading to increased violence against women worldwide, both by pushing them into unsafe jobs and by raising tensions within their families, UN officials said yesterday.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro told the opening session of a two-day international conference on violence against women that job losses were a contributing factor to family troubles.

"We've seen rising levels of despair and frustration in families around the world, exacerbating violence against women," she told participants.

No reports or statistics have been tabulated, and the UN opinion is based on anecdotal evidence and what they call a "ripple effect" on society.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Journalists accused of cartel affiliation

Two rural journalists have been arrested for allegedly working as informants for a violent drug trafficking cartel, according to courts in the southern Mexico state of Tabasco. METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

COURTS The Spanish judge best known for indicting Augusto Pinochet and Osama bin Laden appeared in court yesterday with the tables turned: This time he was a suspect, accused of overstepping his authority in a huge domestic case involving Spanish civil war atrocities. Baltasar Garzon made no comment to reporters as he arrived at the Supreme Court in a very rare case of a Spanish judge being formally probed in legal proceedings. A handful of supporters cheered Garzon as he went in a side entrance for a closed-door session.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lockerbie bomber gets visitors

HOSPITAL The ailing Lockerbie bomber looked weak and pale, sitting in a wheelchair, as he was visited by a group of African parliamentarians yesterday in a rare appearance in the hospital where he is being treated for prostate cancer.

Abdel Baset al-Megrahi appeared for only five minutes and did not speak during the visit in the Tripoli Medical Center. Dressed in hospital scrubs, he wore a surgical mask over his mouth and nose and a traditional embroidered cap.

Al-Megrahi

- Abdel Baset Al-Megrahi was the only person convicted of the Lockerbie bombing, which killed all 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground.

Al-Megrahi was freed from a Scottish prison last month on compassionate grounds because doctors said he was dying of his cancer. The release outraged the United States and many relatives of the 270 people killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland — and their anger was further fanned by the warm welcome al-Megrahi received when he arrived home in Libya.

Libyan officials have said little about his condition since his Aug. 20 homecoming.

Al-Megrahi was rushed to the hospital 11 days later, and TV images at the time showed him breathing through an oxygen mask.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBERTO PELLAschiar/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi gestures at the opening of a textile industry fair in Milan last Tuesday. The Italian media published what they described yesterday as excerpts from prosecutors' interrogation of a businessman who said he paid dozens of women to attend parties at Berlusconi's Sardinia villa and his Rome residence.

Sex, parties and politics

Businessman paid call girls to attend premier's soirees: Reports

Thirty women. Eighteen parties. Guests willing to supply sex "if the need arises."

Two Italian newspapers published what they described yesterday as excerpts from prosecutors' interrogation of a businessman who said he paid dozens of women to attend parties at Premier Silvio Berlusconi's Sardinia villa and his Rome residence.

Corriere della Sera and La Stampa reported that Gianpaolo Tarantini told prosecutors in the city of Bari this summer that some of the 30 or so "image girls" were willing to provide sex "if the need arose" at any of the 18 parties.

Among the women Tarantini told prosecutors he paid 1,000 euros (nearly $1,500) to was Patrizia D'Addario, an admitted call girl who has claimed in interviews that she spent the night with Berlusconi in Rome. Berlusconi said he doesn't recognize D'Addario and has denied he ever paid a woman for sex.

Bari prosecutor Giuseppe Scelsi, who is leading the probe of Tarantini for alleged exploitation of prostitutes, was not in his office yesterday. Tarantini's attorney couldn't immediately be located.

But Bari's chief prosecutor, Antonio Laudati, appeared to confirm the excerpts' accuracy.

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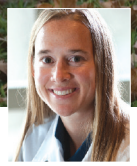

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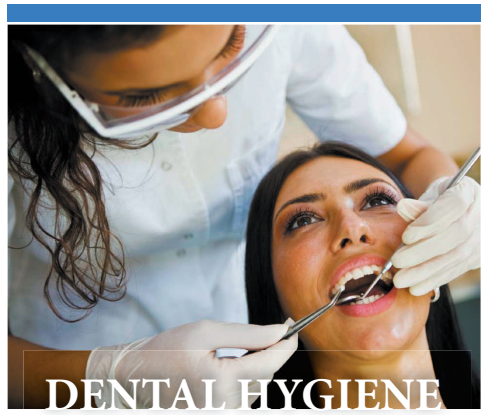

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Comment

Take time to know thy neighbour

I didn't know Dianne Trottier. She and I lived in the same building. I would see Dianne in the lobby. In the elevator. Out and about running errands or walking her dog. The most that we ever exchanged were nods of familiarity and the occasional guarded smile.

Dianne was killed Aug. 30 in Fredericton, the victim of a hit-and-run. And it's only in death that I'm finally getting to know my neighbour.

Dianne was not much older than me. She worked first as a writer, then as a producer for CBC News. She was a star player in the Toronto Power Wheelchair Hockey League. She did not allow her disability to limit or define her. She loved to cook. She was, by all accounts, well-liked, funny and fearless. Dianne Trottier was small but mighty.

I didn't know any of these things about Dianne.

I didn't even know her name because I never bothered to ask.

Had I only known that the woman with whom I frequently shared an elevator was a journalist, blessed with a razor-sharp wit. Had I only known that she was stupefyingly brave and outspoken. I'd often wondered about the accessibility ramp in my local grocery store and it's only now I'm learning that Dianne was the person who placed the calls to make it happen.

Learning about this amazing woman now, after the chance has passed for me to get to know her, fills me with a combination of guilt, shame and regret.

When I was a kid, we knew just about everyone on our street. We'd play ball hockey and jump rope on each other's driveways. The adults would share backyard produce, chat over fences and shout greetings across the street. Then we moved to a new street. My parents have lived there for more than 15 years and I still don't know the names of our next-door neighbours on one side. Not an uncommon occurrence in major cities.

It's even worse in apartment and condo buildings, these people-hives that often lack common areas or senses of community.

We've become so guarded. In this age of guerrilla sales pitches and religious solicitors, friendly chit-chat is frequently met with suspicion. Being in an elevator with other people is a study in awkwardness. It seems so much easier to just keep to ourselves.

Good fences make good neighbours, true, but we've built up brick walls.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Expand high-tech strategy for women

Wendy Cukier

Canada's high-tech sector is an engine of economic growth. Observers recently celebrated the increased enrolments in engineering and related technologies reported by Statistics Canada. But the picture is not entirely rosy — the number of females enrolled in these disciplines has declined since 2002. Enrolment in mathematics, computer science and information sciences have fallen by 29.1 per cent between 2002-07, with female enrolment declining even faster.

The Montreal massacre on Dec. 6, 1989, focused attention on women in technology as never before. The killer targeted aspiring engineers at l'Ecole Polytechnique for achieving what he could not. The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers then released a report — More Than Just Numbers — that revealed the barriers inhibiting women from entering and excelling in engineering. It recommended a wide range of interventions to address "the chilly climate" for women and spawned "women in technology programs" by well-intentioned companies, associations, schools and universities.

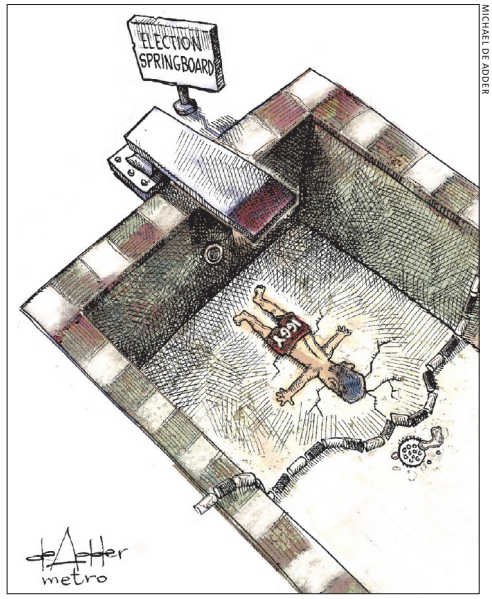
Almost 20 years and millions of dollars later, we have to face the unpleasant truth: The piecemeal approach is not working. A review of more than 50 programs showed few had formal evaluations or could demonstrate significant impact.

High-tech employers can help by encouraging girls to pursue technology careers, developing recruitment and retention strategies to support women and reinforcing positive messages in their procurement and marketing strategies. They also need to ensure they match skill requirements to the tasks, to consider alternative routes to the profession and to create a workplace climate that is inclusive.

Teachers, professors and guidance counsellors need to ensure they present the full range of options and consider female friendly pedagogy and examples.

As the 20th anniversary of the Montreal massacre approaches, there is no better time for Canada to develop an integrated and sustained strategy to weave the pieces together.

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.



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Grain giant Viterra plans to take over Australia's ABB Grain
Canada's largest grain handling company, Viterra Inc., will gain a "strong stream of cash flow" and greater reach with its proposed takeover of Australia's ABB Grain, Viterra CEO Mayo Schmidt said yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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Business in brief

FURNITURE Inscape Corp. plans to focus on its cost structure in the face of expected lower second-quarter results, the office furniture company said after posting a widened first-quarter loss. It lost $962,000 or six cents a share, deepening a year-earlier loss of $363,000 or two cents a share. Sales totalled $17.4 million, down 14 per cent from $20.3 million a year earlier.

FUND Toronto-based Creststreet Asset Management Limited is setting up a new publicly traded fund that will invest primarily in tax-advantaged flow-through shares issued by Canadian energy companies. Creststreet 2009 Limited Partnership has filed a preliminary prospectus for an initial public offering of up to $20 million worth of the LP's units.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barrick hikes share offer

A plan by Barrick Gold Corp. to dilute its share count by more than 10 per cent will take a toll on the stock price of the world's biggest gold company but is worth it, an analyst says.

The Toronto-based company said yesterday it will issue 94.8 million common shares at $36.95 US per share to raise $3.5 billion, up from the $3 billion originally planned, to help pay for its plan to eliminate all of its gold hedges.

Blackmont Capital analyst Richard Gray said the huge share issuance will carry an immediate "steep cost" for Barrick, an assessment that appeared to be borne out yesterday on the TSX as Barrick's shares lost $2.17 or 5.1 per cent to $40.28 in heavy trading.

"The elimination of the hedge … removes a significant future liability that was becoming difficult to defend with the increasing gold price," Gray said.

Barrick said it has decided to eliminate its hedges because of an increasingly positive outlook on the gold price. Barrick also said it believes the gold hedges hurt its appeal to the broader investment community and the company's share price.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hedges

- Gold hedges are futures contracts that commit a company to selling the precious metal at set prices.

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Jobs returns to the Apple stage

EVENT Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs returned to his showman role yesterday, taking the stage at a product launch event for the first time since his nearly six-month-long medical leave.

Jobs, 54, who had a liver transplant this spring, received a standing ovation.

At an event for journalists, bloggers and software partners in San Francisco, Jobs announced updates to Apple's iTunes and iPhone software and unveiled a new iPod Nano with built-in video camera, sound recording and speaker.

Apple also announced price cuts to existing iPod Touch models — $199 US for an eight-gigabyte model, or $30 less. Apple kept prices constant for its other larger models, but will double the storage space.

Meanwhile, the new version of iTunes cleans up the design, gives people more control over what content gets synched — or loaded on — to iPods and iPhones and introduces a way to organize applications purchased for the iPhone and iPod Touch from the iTunes store.

Jobs also said iTunes would now sell albums with photography, cover art and liner notes.
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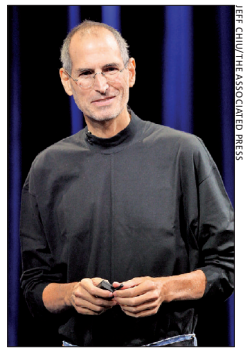
JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Steve Jobs speaks at Apple's San Francisco event yesterday.

Starbucks to keep 30 outlets open

STORES Starbucks Corp. said yesterday it is scrapping plans to close 30 locations. The stores were among 800 U.S. sites scheduled to be shut as part of a massive effort to shut underperforming stores and shave costs.

But yesterday Starbuck's chief financial officer said 30 company-owned locations have become more profitable and were re-evaluated. Since July 2008, the chain announced plans to close more than 900 stores around the globe and has said it would cut 6,700 jobs.
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Toronto-based company sells for $31.5M
Kingsway Financial Services Inc. is selling its specialty property insurance firm Zephyr Insurance Company Inc. for $31.5 million, plus a contingent deferred earn-out amount. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GM weighs options for Opel

The new General Motors Co. board apparently has decided what to do with its troubled Opel unit, but nothing will be made public until German government officials and Opel's board are notified early today, a person familiar with the situation said.

The 13-member board yesterday was weighing four options for Opel, including keeping the operation or letting it slide into bankruptcy protection, said the person. Board members also were discussing if GM should accept bids from a consortium of Canada's Magna International and Russia's Sberbank or a competing offer from RHJ International, a Brussels-based investment house.

Any GM board recommendation would have to be approved by the trust overseeing Germany-based Adam Opel GmbH, whose brands also include Britain's Vauxhall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Company preference

- GM for months has stated its preference for the RHJ bid, because the Brussels-based private equity firm is more likely to restructure Opel while preventing GM's car designs and other technology from going to companies that compete against GM's Chevrolet brand in Russia and other countries.

Miners back to work after strike

PRODUCTION Platmin Limited, a Toronto-based platinum miner, says it has resumed mining at the Pilanesberg Platinum Mine in South Africa after a strike by workers at its mining contractor.

Platmin said yesterday the stoppage resulted from an illegal strike by the workers of MCC Contracts (Pty) Limited over the non-recognition of a second union on the mine-site.

The miner said the issue had been resolved and the majority of the 500 workers previously let go by MCC have been reinstated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grounded Jet Airways standoff

GURINDER OSAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An official awaits passengers at the Jet Airways ticket counter at the airport in New Delhi, India yesterday. Hundreds of striking Jet Airways pilots offered yesterday to hold talks with management to end their two-day-old standoff, which has cancelled hundreds of flights.

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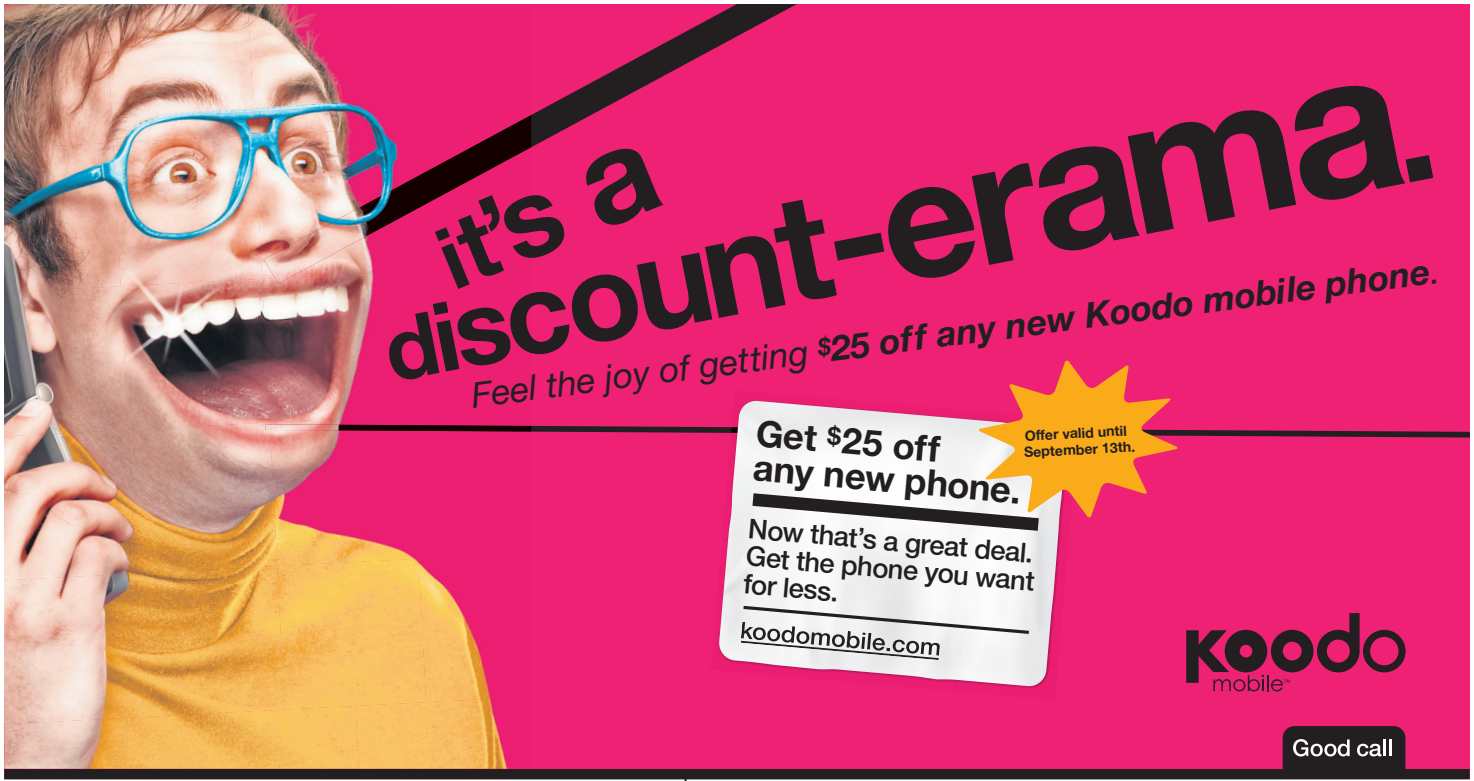

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Argos GM fined for yelling obscenities at reporter

Toronto GM and vice-president of football operations Adam Rita was fined $500 by the CFL yesterday after yelling obscenities at a reporter during the Argonauts' 34-15 loss in Hamilton on Labour Day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Iverson says he's Memphis-bound

Guard Allen Iverson, left, has tweeted that he will be heading to Memphis. The 34-year-old free agent tweeted yesterday that "God Chose Memphis as the place that I will continue my career." Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace said in a statement yesterday afternoon that the team had agreed in principle to a contract with Iverson, and the team scheduled a news conference today at FedExForum.

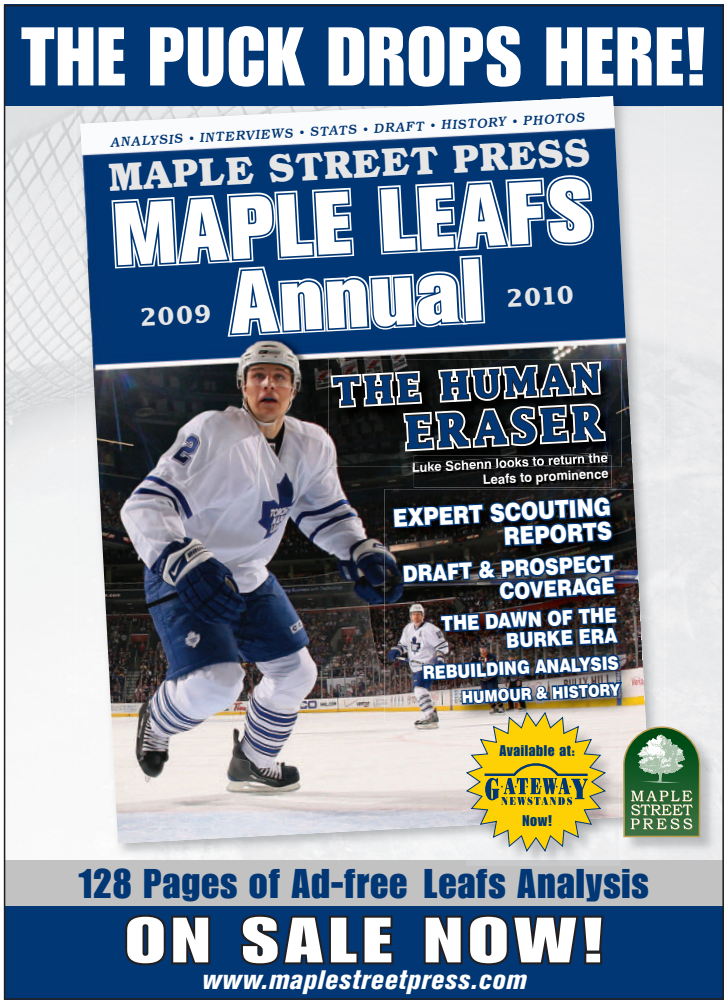
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Baseball **Jays fall to Twins**

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay pitches during second-inning AL action against the Minnesota Twins in Toronto last night. The Twins won 4-2 in front of 11,159 fans, the smallest crowd in the history of the Rogers Centre. For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports.



Oudin's run is over

Teen who upset 4 higher ranked players eliminated

American teenager Melanie Oudin's surprising run at the U.S. Open has ended with a 6-2, 6-2 quarter-final loss to No. 9-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

The 70th-ranked Oudin, a 17-year-old player from Marietta, Ga., lost 14 of the first 18 points last night, and never recovered.

Oudin had upset four higher-ranked players — including three-time major champion Maria Sharapova and Beijing Olympic gold medallist Elena Dementieva — to become the youngest quarter-finalist at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams in 1999.

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And Oudin's last three victories each came after dropping the first set.

But Wozniacki, who leads the women's tour in match victories this season, stopped that pattern to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

In men's action yesterday, No. 4-seeded Novak Djokovic reached the U.S. Open semifinals for the third consecutive year, beating No. 10 Fernando Verdasco of Spain 7-6 (2), 1-6, 7-5, 6-2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dichio hangs up his cleats

"It's going to be a hard transition but it's one I'm looking forward to."
Danny Dichio

SOCCER Danny Dichio was far from a global soccer hero when he first came to Toronto FC in the spring of 2007.

He was an effective blue-collar pro who had logged time at some of England's less glamorous clubs. But the big striker quickly became part of Toronto FC folklore when he crossed the Atlantic to play in the MLS, scoring the expansion team's first ever goal.

"It wasn't a great goal, by any means," Dichio recalled yesterday. "But it meant a lot to the future of this club, and I'll take that memory with me wherever I go."

Dichio, who turns 35 next month, announced his retirement yesterday and plans to enter the coaching ranks with Toronto FC. Dichio will serve as an ambassador for the soccer team and help with coaching, starting initially with the academy players before moving to the first team next year.

"It's a big step for me. It's going to be a hard transition but it's one I'm looking forward to," Dichio said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

SOCCER European champion Spain and rejuvenated England booked their World Cup places with two games to spare yesterday by both maintaining their perfect records in qualifying.

NHL The Dallas Stars are pegging some of their ticket prices to the whims of the marketplace. The team said yesterday it will be the first NHL franchise to offer a flexible pricing plan that goes beyond the notion of charging more for games against better opponents. As with air fares, buying tickets early can help, and it will matter where the teams are in the standings.

HOCKEY The International Ice Hockey Federation has ruled that Detroit Red Wings forward Jiri Hudler can sign with Dynamo Moscow of Russia's Continental Hockey League. Hudler was awarded a $10-million, two-year contract from Dynamo Moscow in July. USA Hockey filed an appeal, saying Hudler was still under contract with the Red Wings.

SOCCER The Montreal Impact is staying quiet about a report that English star David Beckham is interested in owning a piece of a future MLS franchise in Montreal. A club spokesman called the report "rumours" yesterday and said "we are not commenting on that."

BASEBALL Cleveland Indians outfielder Grady Sizemore has had arthroscopic surgery on his left elbow. The surgery was performed yesterday morning by team physician Dr. Mark Schickendantz. Sizemore played in pain all season before the Indians finally shut him down on Friday.

TENNIS Stadium security was bulked up for last night's matches at the U.S. Open, a day after a man was arrested for running onto the court to kiss Rafael Nadal. The total number of on-court private security personnel —guards and supervisors — was being increased from six to nine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bettman, Balsillie to take stand

NHL The two men at the centre of the Phoenix Coyotes bankruptcy case will each take the stand in court this week.

Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman are expected to spend as much as 40 minutes apiece answering questions from lawyers, according to an agenda filed in Arizona bankruptcy court yesterday.

They're scheduled to appear before the court early tomorrow — the second of two days Judge Redfield T. Baum has set aside this week to oversee an auction for the team, in which Balsillie and the NHL are now the only bidders.

Ice Edge Holdings confirmed yesterday that it would not take part in this week's auction, hinting that it may try to buy the team at a later date.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ticket prices up, Cowboys set record

NFL ticket prices climbed 3.9 per cent to an average of $74.99 US for the 2009 season. According to Team Marketing Report's survey released yesterday, 21 teams either kept prices the same or lowered them. The average ticket to a Dallas Cowboys game costs $159.65, a record for the Fan Cost Index survey, which dates to 1991. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL Preview

Super Bowl XLIV

The 44th edition of the Super Bowl will be held at Miami's Dolphins Stadium on Feb. 7, 2010. It will be the fifth time the stadium has played host to the NFL's championship game.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

North wind blowing

Canadian participation on the rise in the National Football League

PERRY LEFKO
for Metro Canada

The National Football League may be an American entity, but it has a growing Canadian element to it.

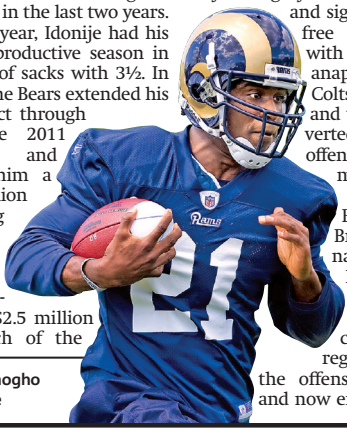
Whether it's Canadian-born players or players who have graduated from the Canadian Football League, there are elements of the NFL that are of particular interest to football fans north of the border.

Oshiomogho (O.J.) Atogwe, a Windsor native, was drafted in the third round of the 2005 NFL Draft and has blossomed into one of the premier safeties in the league. He's what's known as a ball hawk because of his proficiency in intercepting passes. He has 17 picks in four seasons, including eight in 2007, which led the National Football Conference.

In February, the Rams signed Atogwe to a one-year deal worth $6.342 million US. Suffice to say, he stands to reap even more financial rewards if he continues to play at this level.

In Chicago, defensive lineman Israel Idonije heads into his sixth season with the team. The native of Lagos, Nigeria, who grew up in Manitoba and graduated from the University of Manitoba has become a regular starter in the last two years.

Last year, Idonije had his most productive season in terms of sacks with 3½. In May, the Bears extended his contract through to the 2011 season and gave him a $2-million signing bonus. He is slated to receive $2.5 million in each of the next two seasons. Idonije, one of the few players in NFL to graduate from the Canadian university ranks, has reached these heights despite the fact he didn't start playing organized football until university.



Oshiomogho Atogwe

Another player from the Canadian post-secondary ranks is Dan Federkeil, who graduated from the University of Calgary as a tight end and signed as a free agent with the Indianapolis Colts in 2006 and was converted into an offensive lineman. In New England, Brantford native Nick Kaczur has become a regular on the offensive line and now enters his fifth season.

Much attention from a Canadian perspective will be on defensive lineman Vaughn Martin, who played only two years at the University of Western, but impressed the San Diego Chargers enough to draft him in the fourth round and give him a multi-year contract.

Other Canadians of note include: Washington kicker Shaun Suisham; Seattle punter Jon Ryan; New Orleans cornerback Jason David; Jacksonville defensive tackle Rob Meier; Dallas long snapper L.P. Ladouceur; Seattle wide receiver Nate Burleson; and Indy receiver Sam Giguere.

Cam Wake, who was named the CFL's outstanding defensive player the last two years, parlayed that into a contract with the Miami Dolphins. Running back Stefan Logan, a teammate of Wake's in B.C., signed with Pittsburgh and survived pre-season cuts.

Patriots

BRADY Tom Brady is excited about Monday night's opener and not only because it will be his first regular-season game in more than a year. The New England Patriots quarterback noted yesterday noted he's already played in three exhibition games and that's given him a chance to face another team. It also gave him time to play with a brace on his surgically repaired left knee and he said he feels comfortable with it.

Vikings

FAVRE Brett Favre insists he won't let his durability streak hurt the Vikings. Favre will make his 270th straight start when Minnesota plays at Cleveland Sunday. That will match what the NFL considers the longest streak in history, held by former Vikings defensive lineman Jim Marshall from 1961-79. Favre said yesterday he would sit out this season if he's not healthy enough to suit up as Minnesota's quarterback. The 39-year-old also said he "may not" be able to play in all 16 regular-season games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bills' offence leaves T.O. winded

BUFFALO Receiver Terrell Owens doesn't have a problem with the Buffalo Bills no-huddle offence, except that it's tiring him out.

Owens raised eyebrows yesterday when he said he wasn't much of a fan of the Bills new scheme.

"No, not really, but I gotta deal with it," the receiver said in a conference call with members of the Patriots media as the Bills prepare to open the regular season at New England Monday.

Owens laughed after making that statement, though it was not clear whether his concern was with the no-huddle scheme itself or how much it's been tiring him out. Owens returned to practice last week after missing the final four pre-season games with a sprained toe.

Upon learning that his comments were being taken literally, Owens posted a note on his Twitter page insisting that he was "clearly joking."

During the conference call, Owens did refer to the offence as being "all right," while noting he's been a little winded.

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

Terrell Owens, right, of the Buffalo Bills says his team's new no-huddle offence is tiring him out and he hopes it will do the same to opposing defences.

"We're doing some things in the offence that will help me get in shape a little bit faster than I need to," Owens said. "I've got a taste of it since (mini-camps) and I know what to expect."

Owens added he hopes the offence can also wear down opponents by not allowing them to make defensive substitutions.

"It's something we're looking forward to, and we're going to try out," he said.

Owens also poked fun at the Patriots, after being asked whether he had anything special prepared for the game.

"I might bring my spy camera," Owens said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steelers have a score to settle in season opener

NFL PICKS With a record sixth Lombardi Trophy in their possession, the Steelers carry the biggest of targets on their black-and-gold jerseys this season. Yet it's Mike Tomlin's champions — and all of Pittsburgh, for that matter — looking to settle a score in the NFL season's opener tonight.

Into Heinz Field come the Terrible Towel stompers themselves, the Tennessee Titans. After the Titans whipped the Steelers 31-14 in Nashville in the penultimate game last season, linebacker Keith Bulluck dropped a towel, then swiped his foot across it. Running back LenDale White stomped on a towel, and defensive end Jevon Kearse used one as he pretended to blow his nose.

The Steelers, who are 5½-point favourites in the now traditional opener hosted by the Super Bowl winners, didn't lose again after that game. And they haven't forgotten the Titans' terrible behaviour toward their towels.

But Pittsburgh's top-ranked defence will concern itself with what White, Chris Johnson and rookie Javon Ringer try to do on the ground. Tennessee is no slouch on D, either, even with All-Pro tackle Albert Haynesworth now in Washington. With both sides likely to be stingy, this could come down to one key play by an offensive standout. We'll bet that's Hines Ward. STEELERS 16-10

Buffalo (plus 10) at New England (Monday night)

BEST BET: Hello T.O. from Buffalo. No matter how much you do in your Bills debut, Tom Brady, Randy Moss, Wes Welker and Patriots will do more. PATRIOTS 35-13

San Francisco (plus 6½) at Arizona

UPSET SPECIAL: Niners nearly beat Cardinals in Mike Singletary's debut as interim coach last November. They win his debut as full-time coach. 49ERS 21-20

Minnesota (minus 2½) at Cleveland

Everybody loves Brett Favre-led Vikings. Doesn't seem like anyone likes Eric Mangini-led Browns. VIKINGS 24-10

Miami (plus 4) at Atlanta

A year ago, this was considered an early-season dud. Now, it's a matchup worthy of prime-time. AFC is superior to NFC, so ... DOLPHINS 24-21

Detroit (plus 12) at New Orleans

Let's see, Lions haven't won since two days before Christmas — in 2007. SAINTS 31-7

Kansas City (plus 8½) at Baltimore

Maybe Matt Cassel is better off not facing Ravens' fierce D. RAVENS 20-3

Philadelphia (plus 1) at Carolina

Two franchises that had very busy off-seasons. Brian Westbrook and DeAngelo Williams are worth admission price. EAGLES 24-20

Denver (plus 1) at Cincinnati

Bengals might be jealous that Broncos have stolen the dysfunctional thunder. BENGALS 20-3

New York Jets (plus 4) at Houston

Mark Sanchez, meet Mario Williams and DeMeco Ryans. OUCH. TEXANS 24-10

Jacksonville (plus 7½) at Indianapolis

With Tony Dungy retired, Colts might take some missteps. Not here. COLTS 27-10

Dallas (minus 3) at Tampa Bay

Cowboys tune up for big debut game of their billion-dollar stadium. Are they looking ahead? Nope. COWBOYS 30-13

Washington (plus 6) at N.Y. Giants

Redskins might be best fourth-place team in NFL. Giants are likely first-place team. GIANTS 24-14

St. Louis (plus 7) at Seattle

Jim Mora takes over as Seahawks coach. He's got better roster than Steve Spagnuolo does in his Rams debut. SEAHAWKS 16-10

Chicago (plus 3) at Green Bay

Longest running rivalry in pro football, and both franchises have strong teams. Pack looks bit stronger right now. PACKERS 28-17

San Diego (minus 7) at Oakland (Monday night)

Regardless of Chargers star LB Shawne Merriman's status, Oakland is outmanned. CHARGERS 33-7

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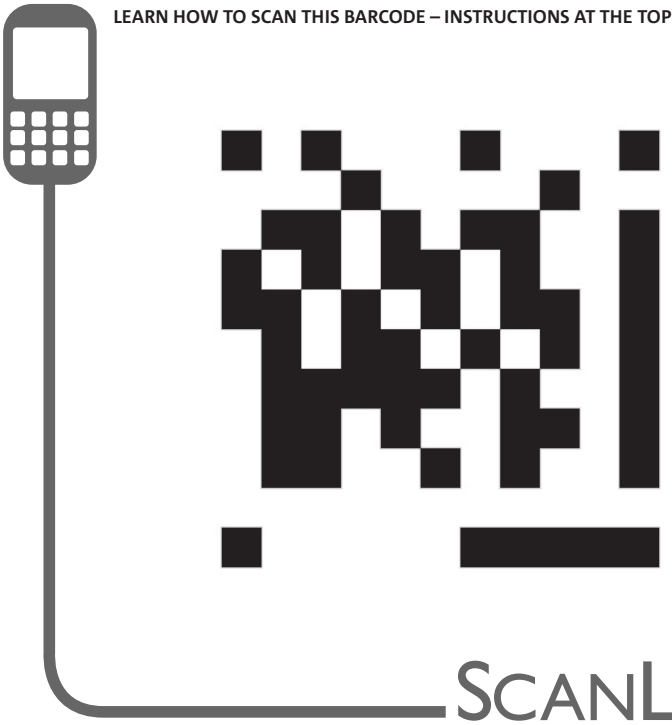

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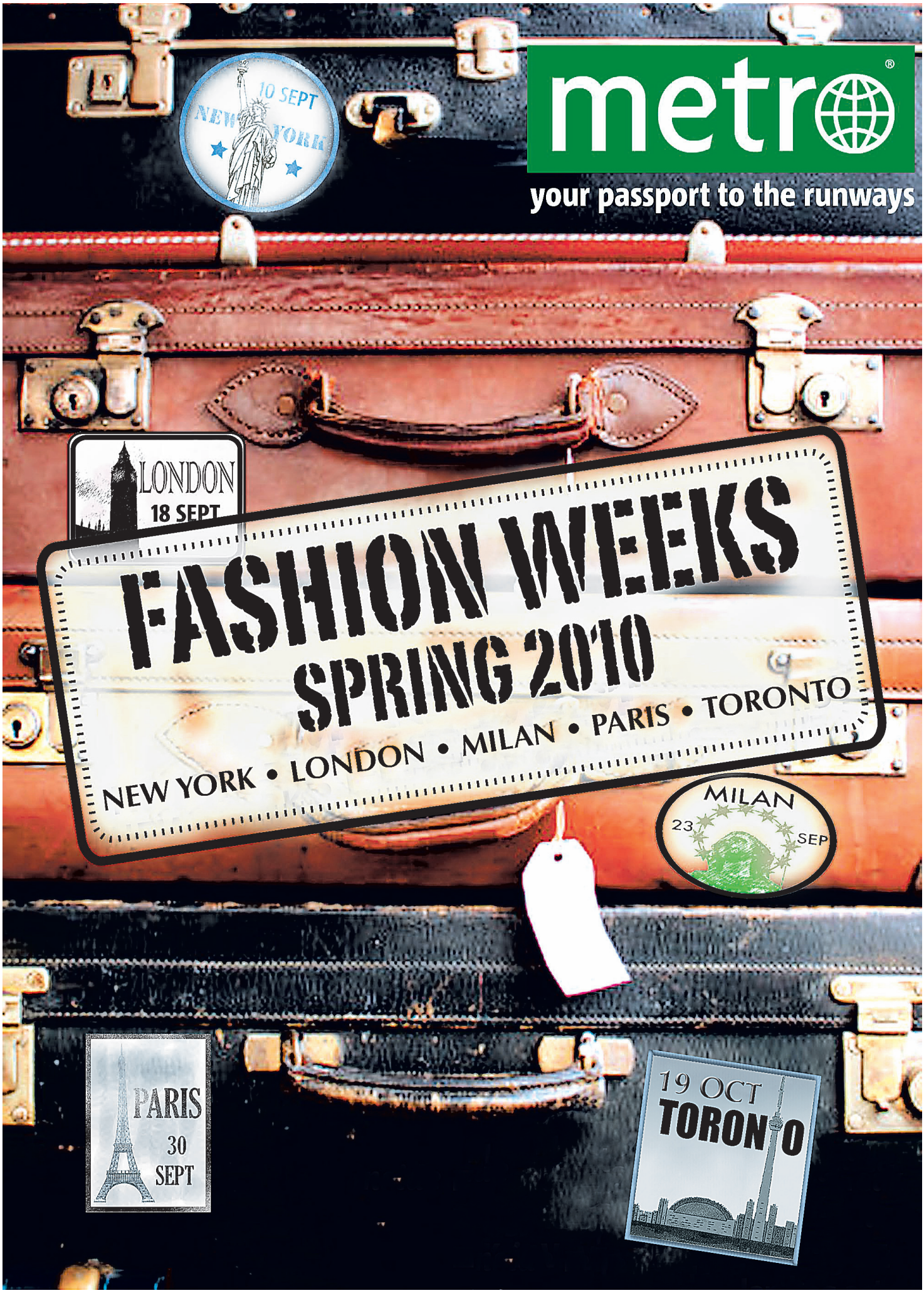
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THE REGULARS

A look at a few recurring front row faces at New York Fashion Week

It's hard to believe there was ever a time when a fashion show was not dominated by celebrity appearances and paparazzi. But today, a front row filled with the "right" faces is a key factor in a show's success. The celebrities who attend the show can say as much about the brand as the clothes. We look at New York's regulars.

kanye west

What makes him front row worthy: He's the music world's most fashion obsessed personality, often attending more shows than the editors.
Where he's been spotted: Thakoon, Marc Jacobs, Zac Posen

mary kate & ashley olsen

What makes them front row worthy: Between their clothing line Elizabeth and James and their book, Influence, which featured an interview with Karl Lagerfeld, the twins have developed serious fashion cred since their days as child stars.
Where they've been spotted: Jenni Kayne, Proenza Schouler, Benjamin Cho

joy bryant

What makes her front row worthy: The actress has long been a favourite among fashion magazine editors for her natural beauty and whimsical way of dressing.
Where she's been spotted: Max Azria, Thakoon, Zac Posen

blake lively

What makes her front row worthy: Gossip Girl is as much about fashion as drama. So it would only make sense that its star be a sought-after front row guest.
Where she's been spotted: Ralph Lauren, Michael Kors

olivia palermo

What makes her front row worthy: The front row is always an orchestrated mix of celebrities, editors, society girls and, these days, reality show stars. Palermo, daughter of a real estate tycoon and cast member of The City, knocks out two categories in one.
Where she's been spotted in the past: Jason Wu, Rachel Roy, Ports 1961

KENYA HUNT

WEST

THE OLSENS

BRYANT

GETTY IMAGES

LIVELY

PALERMO

THE COOL KIDS LOVE IT | RED CARPET FRIENDLY | FASHION WITH A CAPITAL "F" | SO TRENDY RIGHT NOW | SOCIETY GIRL FAVORITE | TABLOID MAGAZINE MATERIAL

the new york look

It's all about the statement piece here, whether it be an eye-popping pair of shoes or conversation-starting necklace.

KENYA HUNT

Jeffrey Campbell boots, $177, solestruck.com
Sky high heels + laces + black leather = this season's rocker chic trend.

Fernanda Pereira necklace, $221 pixiemarket.com
A statement necklace can transform summer's ubiquitous strapless dress into a fresh look for fall.

Made Her Think ring, $82, shopbop.com
This Swarovski crystal encrusted dagger marries femininity and edge.

Alexander Wang zip chain bag, $897, openingceremony.us
Dump half of the junk you've been carrying in your oversized tote and downsize to this cool, tough girl chic satchel instead.

Christian Louboutin glitter lace-ups, $737, netaporter.com
Channel Michael Jackson by pairing these shimmery shoes with a great fitting pair of trousers and a boyfriend blazer.

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Agyness Deyn

in a New York minute

The model gives us a peek inside her black book.

Getting around

Landmark Vintage Bicyles
136 E. 3rd St., New York, N.Y. 10009

"I love to ride my bicycle with no plan or direction so I'm in heaven when I go here. It's my favourite shop in New York. They sell and restore vintage bicycles. Chung the owner is awesome and knows everything about bikes from the 1950s to the 1990s."

Shopping

Suite Orchard Boutique
145a Orchard St.
New York, N.Y. 10002

"The girls who work there are so nice and they pick great stuff. But I especially love their in-house line called Soni and Cindy. It's cute and girly, with a tomboy twist."

Hell's Kitchen Flea Market
West 39th St. (near 9th Ave.)
New York, N.Y. 10011

"I love to go there and dig around for unusual clothes and records."

Eating

Blue Ribbon Sushi
119 Sullivan St.
New York, N.Y. 10012

"Sushi is my favourite food! I often have it for lunch and dinner. Blue Ribbon is one of my favourites. I love their green tea crème brulee."

Freemans
End of Freeman Alley
New York, N.Y. 10002

"I go to Freemans a lot with my girlfriends. They've got the best waiters in town. The food is delicious and I love the cosy ranch-style décor. Order the artichoke dip and the steak. Wow. So great."

Deyn (Women Management) is a runway favourite.

Sleeping

The Bowery Hotel
335 Bowery
New York, NY 10012

"It's near my place, so friends and family stay there when they come to visit. I also lived there for a month when I first came to New York. I remember being there and feeling like I was in an old movie. It's great for dinner and drinks or to just sit outside in the summer."

Going out

Brooklyn Bowl
61 Wythe Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11211

"I love an activity or themed hangout. I'm happy in any karaoke bar in the East Village. Brooklyn Bowl is also a great night out. The more laughing, the better."

MAISIE WILHELM

Out with the old, in with the ...

then
Shopping your wardrobe
In an effort to save up extra cash for hard financial times, we gave our credit cards a rest and began to think of creative ways to make that old designer handbag look "new" again.

now
Shopping in stores
On Sept. 10, stores in the United States, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, China and seven other countries will join forces to kick off Fashion Week with a global shopping event called "Fashion's Night Out." The brainchild of Anna Wintour, the city of New York and the CFDA, it is designed to woo shoppers into stores again with parties and special discounts.

then
Runway show death watch
Last season, designers were cancelling their runway shows faster than you can say "RSVP."

now
Swine flu watch
The runway show schedule looks to be as packed as ever. But with so many international editors catching swine flu, will all of the audience seats be full?

then
September issue heavyweights
A part of the fun of going to the Bryant Park tents is stocking up on the September issues of all of your favourite magazines being given away for free, never mind the fact that they weigh a ton.

now
September issue lightweights
It shouldn't be too hard carrying around this month's magazines. Thanks to a sharp decline in ad pages, they're the lightest they've been in years.

ROMINA McGUINNESS

off the beaten track

Soak it all in

Where to experience Fashion Week without an invitation

The Box

189 Chrystie St.
New York, N.Y. 10002

The Box's Simon Hammerstein has been quoted as saying, "I want people standing on the tables. Drinking, eating, dancing, cabaret!" For many, he and his partners, including Serge Becker (of the legendary '80s club, Area) and board members Jude Law and Josh Lucas have achieved the perfect, non-stop erotic playground.

Da Silvano

260 Sixth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10014

Great Tuscan food, A-listers and PYTs define this 30-year-old Greenwich Village institution. Book a reservation in advance and cross your fingers for a night of good people-watching. Owner Silvano Marchetto has been known to juggle famous guests including Rihanna, Calvin Klein, Anna Wintour and Donna Karan.

Indochine

430 Lafayette St.
New York, N.Y. 10003

After 20 odd years, Jean-Marc Houmard's French-Vietnamese restaurant is still a watering hole of choice for the fashion crowd (perhaps it's the escapist setting, a Hollywood backlot version of a French colonial palace.) Recent sightings include Pierre Hardy, Thakoon and Richard Chai, among others.

Monkey Bar

60 E. 54th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Gradyon Carter's newest restaurant brings the constellations of fashion, celebrity, politics and media to a quiet block in midtown. Expect the eatery to be very busy during show week (past sightings include Steven Klein, Madonna and Mayor Bloomberg.) But good luck getting a reservation. It's pretty exclusive.

Norwood

241 W. 14th St.
New York, N.Y. 10011

Norwood is a private club that is, according to its website, an active sponsor of creative talent in the New York area. If you can hook up admission, head straight to the walled garden, which has has already enchanted celebs including Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon and Goldie Hawn.

The Standard

848 Washington St.
New York, NY 100014

Straddling the High Line and the rest of the Meat-Packing District like a taut lover, André Balazs' Standard hotel features impressive architecture and views of the Manhattan skyline. Recently seen in the lobby: The New York Times' Stefano Tonchi and Barneys New York Fashion Director Julie Gilhart.

ROGER JOSEPH

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Sears

Full steam ahead

With three major design awards under his belt, Francisco Costa takes Calvin Klein into exciting new territory

GABRIELA HERMAN

Francisco Costa is on a career high.

He's just returned from a trip to The White House where First Lady Michelle Obama honoured him with a Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for his fashion design work for Calvin Klein Collection. It's the third major award the Brazilian native has won in the past four years (he won the prestigious Women's Wear Designer of the Year award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America in 2006 and 2008.) In the process, he's become a ray of hope of sorts for the New York fashion industry.

Not only has he managed to take the helm of an iconic fashion house from its living founder and evolve the brand in a meaningful way, he's also become a star in his own right. Years ago, Calvin Klein was most known for its denim and provocative ad campaigns. Today, its women's wear, designed by Costa, 45, is widely viewed as one of the best in the industry. Other designers who have stepped into the shoes of living legends have not fared nearly as well. (Alber Elbaz, for example, struggled designing for Yves Saint Laurent in the shadow of the French house's then still living namesake.) So it will be interesting to see what happens at the houses of the other two members of New York's old guard fashion trifecta, Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan, further down the line. In the meantime, Costa, who designed for Oscar de la Renta and Gucci before heading up Calvin Klein Collection, has more work to do. We met him at the brand's New York headquarters as he prepared to begin creating his spring 2010 collection.

Congratulations on the Cooper-Hewitt award! How did it feel to win?
It was incredible because it's not just fashion. It's design across the board and on a national level at that. I went to the Cooper-Hewitt museum all the time. It's such an incredible fountain. The museum has always been a bit up there. So to now be a part of it is very thrilling. It was just really meaningful. And the association of Mrs. Obama and the White House just made things even more wild.

What do you think of the influence Michelle Obama has had on American fashion?
I think she stands out for being so brave and thinking out of the box. The thinking is what's probably of great distinct. She's bringing more people in and being more inclusive than exclusive. That's something that we believe in here in this house. The more people we dress, the more categories we have, the stronger the company is. It's a very modern way of thinking.

What were your earliest impressions of Calvin Klein?
Well before I moved to the U.S., I remember (the ads with) Brooke Shields. She just made a huge splash. So that was really defined. And then I really felt how strong the label was. It was huge. So provocative. It was incredible.

Your mother ran a clothing factory in Brazil. What kind of work did she do there and how did it influence you?
Well, she started her company by selling fabrics but she used to make garments as well. My mom once did this dress for my cousin's wedding, and I was just like, "Wow, what is this thing?" That dress was so crazy. It was very simple and architectural but then it had this head piece that I don't know how she came up with. Later, I looked back and realized that the dress was basically based on a Balenciaga. And it was an amazing reference because we lived in the middle of this tiny little town (Guarani). She was very forward for her time. I mean she had her magazines, which we weren't allowed to touch. But she was obviously inspired by the photos in them. It was not your traditional bridal gown. And I remember not knowing whether I liked it or not. But I never thought it had any influence on me at the time. She was just my mother.

What were your experiences like in the factory?
It was a very small town, about 3,000 people, you know? And she had the largest business in town. She employed all women and she created a home for the children of the mothers who worked for her. It was our town's earliest example of day care, a concept that was kind of foreign at the time. She just had great ideas and knew how to put them into practice. But I'm going off track. We used to leave school and go home and there would be no rest. We had to go to the factory and work.

Did that work ethic carry over to your adult life?
I think I got a little bit of that side of her. The restlessness. Do you know the tag guns that dispense the plastic tags? Well before that was created, we had to make them ourselves. So I would line up the tags on a table and I had to pull the thread through each one of those tags and knot it. That was my first job. It was insane and would take days to complete. Those are good memories though.

So when you moved to the States and began studying fashion at F.I.T., was it difficult to adjust to New York's fashion scene after living in such a small town?
I think so. But then again, I felt like it was heaven, being in New York by myself. It was in the height of the '80s, about 1986. I was really inspired by everything that was happening. There was the whole series of Japanese fashion. Comme des Garçons, Yohji (Yamamoto) — it was all animated and fashiony and just great design. And then you had Calvin and Halston, which was so chic and glamorous. And I remember trying to save so much money to buy a Jean Paul Gaultier jacket. Fashion was really full on at the time. I was also soaking in everything that was happening on the streets and in the clubs in the city. I was just living it and not really reflecting on what was happening at the time. But then, the more I began to really understand the culture in New York the more I began to understand the great fashion that inspired these people.

> *"I think there always has to be a certain amount of insecurity there."*
>
> **francisco costa**

You've worked for completely different, yet equally unique fashion houses. What were those transitions like going from one house to the next?
I think that's something that always haunted me, going from job to job. I always questioned the transition. Working with Oscar was one very strong aesthetic that I had to learn.

>> continued on F8

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Sibelius Festival	Apr 14 – 22
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GETTY IMAGES

the calvin klein look

>> continued from F6

And then from there to Gucci, which was like night and day. Before I went there, Tom Ford called me and told me to get a lawyer. And I was like, "Why?" And he said, "I want you to come work for me." I never thought I'd be the right match. And then Calvin approached me. But I always figured it out. I think there always has to be a certain amount of insecurity there, otherwise you're too comfortable and complacent.

But was it difficult creating your vision for Calvin Klein considering that he's still alive?
I'm lucky in that I was left with this legacy but I'm not constricted.

Do you feel like it's easier to design for the brand now than it was in the beginning?
No. I never want to get too comfortable. I think it has to be that way, really.

Coming from Brazil, how did you develop your vision of how American women should dress?
To be honest, I'm still learning this. But the cool thing is that American women today are much different from how we imagined them in the past. Now we travel much more and have greater access to information. The world has become one. So I think when you think of how to dress American women, you have to dress women in general. We've made a lot of progress. The brand was associated with one type of woman and now we have broadened.

Your work is known for being quite intellectual. Do you have any low brow, guilty pleasures?
Of course, I'm the devil (laughs). But I don't think my work is so intellectual at all. I think when I try to do a collection there's an element of thought behind it. It's not just the ABC of making clothes. Maybe the intellectual part comes into play when people react to it.

You've been in a long-term relationship for many years. How do you balance love and work at this level?
It all becomes one. He's much more a part of what I do now than in the beginning. He comes with me to events much more now. So having him as a part of that makes it easier on the relationship. We've been together for 20 years. A lot of it is about making compromises. But I'd much rather do that with someone I love and respect than not.

Could you one day see yourself balancing your work for Calvin Klein with designing your own clothing line?
That would be nice (smile).

KENYA HUNT

AMERICAN *dreaming*

The French designer finally hits her stride

"That's where I do my show castings," Sophie Theallet says, pointing to the hallway outside of her third floor apartment in Brooklyn. "The neighbours get excited when the models come," she adds with a laugh. Her living room doubles as an atelier and her large foyer as an office space. "Everything happens here," she explains. Today, she's busily preparing a presentation for the CFDA/ Vogue Fashion Fund award, which Theallet is a finalist for; it's the fashion equivalent of the Best New Artist Grammy. "It's really important for me because I'm French and have been here for 10 years. But the award means that I can say that my business is here in America now," she says. Theallet recounts the journey.

The moment it all began

"My dad was a doctor and always had magazines in the waiting room. I would pour over them. When I was eight-years-old, I drew my very first collection."

A man named Azzedine

"I knew that I wanted to have my own fashion house but I didn't want to launch it without any real experience. So I became an intern for Azzedine Alaïa in Paris and we clicked so well that he asked me to become his assistant. And I stayed with him for 10 years (before that, I worked for Jean Paul Gaultier who was also incredibly important to my development). I'm still close to Azzedine and call him when I need advice."

Motherhood twice over

"For my first collection, I wanted to work with a lot of colours and it was important for me to use black models. I wanted to show that you can have all of these amazing girls in a collection that looks really chic. At the same time that I was doing this, my son arrived! So I had two babies."

The First Lady factor

"I was feeling depressed and mindlessly surfing the Internet. I went to Mrs-O.org to see what Michelle Obama was wearing that day. That's how I discovered that she had worn my dress! The phone started ringing and I was like, 'Wow,' because it felt like I was a part of history. And then to see her wear my work again during a trip to Ghana was incredibly special for me. It's also funny because I'm quite close with Carla Bruni as well from my days with Azzedine. Maybe one day she will wear my work, you never know."

Spring 2010

"I'm trying to be in tune with what's going on in the world. But everything that I'm doing creatively now is influenced by my being in America. I think that it's now time to make real clothes, things that speak to women who want to look beautiful. I want it to be more accessible to people with a wider range of prices. That's my goal. I don't ever want to follow trends. The spring collection will be beautiful, chic sportswear. With this collection, I want to connect with women in an even stronger way."

KENYA HUNT

GABRIELA HERMAN

sophie theallet *Sophie Theallet's home/atelier in Brooklyn, N.Y.*

TIFF on the web
Visit metronews.ca/tiff for the latest on the Toronto International Film Festival, including photos, videos, and a blog.

TIFF Toronto International Film Festival

Boyle a mentor

Oscar-winning British director Danny Boyle, left, is returning to the festival this year as a mentor. He has signed on as a "governor" in the festival's Talent Lab, which means he'll teach the 25 workshop participants from around the world. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITORS: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA & STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

'My life is an open book': Hefner

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

Hugh Hefner's activism in sexual, feminist and civil rights is at the heart of the documentary, Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel.

When Hugh Hefner walks along the red carpet in front of the Elgin Theatre for the screening of Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel on Saturday, the founder of the Playboy empire will be accompanied by his posse of long-legged blonde girlfriends by his side.

It should be a show-stopper on the night Canadian filmmaker Brigitte Berman's documentary about the man who helped spur the sexual liberation movement of the '60s receives its world premiere.

"In so many quarters, my life is, by nature, misunderstood," Hefner told Metro on the phone from the Playboy Mansion. "People's perceptions of me and of Playboy are a Rorschach test, an inkblot test. A projection of other peoples' fantasies and prejudices, depending on who you are and how you feel about yourself. Your own prejudices."

Hefner allowed Berman to study 4,000 personal scrapbooks dating back to his childhood. They've known each other since 1985 but such access would seem to lay Hefner, well, naked.

Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist, and Rebel screens Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Elgin Theatre.

"Haha. Naked is what I'm all about," he said. "My life is an open book with illustrations, and it started when I was a young journalist. I started recording my life in cartoon and scrapbooks, right up to the present day. I'd be looking through them and Brigitte was there, researching, deeply into it. I am proud of her and she is a wonderful lady.

"There were a couple of moments in the film that brought me to tears. I've seen it in rough cuts many times but that last time Brigitte and I watched it together, I was moved to tears, seeing what we managed to create."

The documentary chronicles the shocking affect his libertarian magazine had on the culture when he launched it in 1953. At that time, only "smut" magazines showed naked women, but he displayed them proudly alongside articles written by the leading authors and thinkers of the day. He's drawn fire ever since.

Hefner says he was never troubled by the death threats or slams from powerful "enemies" as seen in the film. He's blessed with confidence and a sense of purpose.

"I think that frankly it hasn't taken a lot of strength," he said. "I started the magazine because I loved publishing and wanted to create a men's lifestyle magazine, but in the early '60s when it was so popular, I just felt I could introduce into it the other half of who I was — my interest in social sexual values and questions of race and war."

Hefner's activism in sexual, feminist, and civil rights is the heart of the film. He was arrested and sued but never lost a legal battle. He hired blacklisted writers to write for the magazine under their own names. He promoted the careers of black performers who were not permitted to entertain in certain places.

"I always felt it had to do with the rights of the individual. It's what I believe in. And it's one of the reasons the Playboy rabbit symbol is so popular still, especially overseas. It represents personal, political, and economic freedom."

The final chapter of the documentary looks at Hefner's present life: the TV reality show The Girls Next Door, which is shot in the Playboy mansion and follows the lives of his various Playmate girlfriends. Hefner says he has enjoyed unexpected benefits from the shows' success.

"The girls became celebrities and I think that the rest of the world fell in love with them more than they had beforehand with life at the mansion," he says.

"The average fan base expanded to include women of all ages. Seventy per cent of the audience is female. I've had letters from around the world from women who want to be my girlfriends. At least twice a week someone asks. And I'm 83!"

Creation controversial

This year, Toronto International Film Festival organizers made the decision to open the fest with a non-Canadian movie — Creation, a British film about English naturalist Charles Darwin starring Paul Bettany and Jennifer Connelly.

Festival organizers acknowledge the choice has been controversial.

"We've had a lot of spirited conversations about this, let me put it that way," festival co-director Cameron Bailey said. "There are some people who feel that we should always open with a Canadian film — I'm not really of that opinion."

Not all in the film community are crowing about the distinctly international flavour of this year's Canadian lineup.

Carl Bessai, the Vancouver-based filmmaker who will be at the fest with his new movie Cole — set in the tiny town of Lytton, B.C. — is outspoken in his belief that Canadian filmmakers have a responsibility to ground their stories here.

"I don't want to die on this cross, but I do feel that if Canadian filmmakers don't make movies where Canada is on display in the film, even if it's subtle .... the audiences here will never see it," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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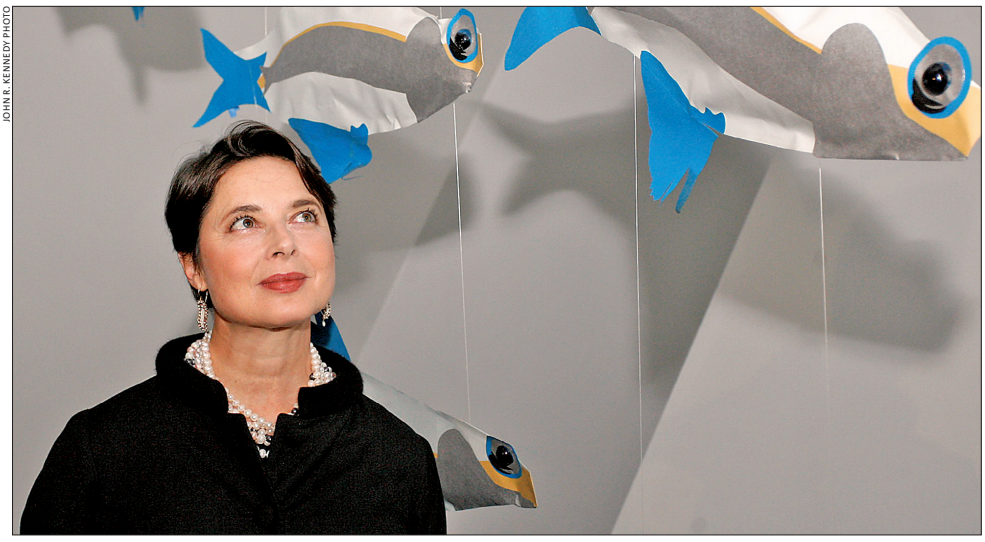
JOHN R. KENNEDY PHOTO



Glamour icon Isabella Rossellini says Green Porno stemmed from her fascination with animals and a dream to make movies.

Rossellini's sexy beasts

HANNAH ZITNER
for Metro Canada

Humping a cardboard insect to death dressed in a large, colourful bee suit may seem like a strange role for a glamour icon whose face has graced the cover of every major fashion magazine, but for Isabella Rossellini such a scene was an easy way of getting people's attention.

"We decided we were going to do a film about sex because people are interested in sex, they're not so interested in animals. So I said we'll do sex of the animals and we'll get the audience," she said in an interview in Toronto.

Gearing up for the world premiere of the latest of her two-minute short films about the mating habits of insects and sea creatures, Rossellini explains how Green Porno stemmed from a fascination with animals and a childhood dream to make movies.

"When I was little, I always liked films, I always thought that I would be in films, or be a storyteller, and then I became a model and actress."

Rossellini was the face of Lancôme for 14 years, has appeared in several feature films and has written three books.

In 2005, she ventured behind the lens and wrote a film tribute to her father, film director Roberto Rossellini, called My Dad is 100 Years Old. The film caught the eye of Robert Redford, who asked her to develop a series of short, environmentally conscious films for tiny screens (the Internet, hand-held computers and mobile phones).

Made in a "do-it-yourself" style, Rossellini dresses in large, colourful, paper costumes showing and telling how each species procreates.

"My main intention was to make a comical film and to have accurate information. I want people to laugh after seeing Green Porno, then to say, 'Oh, I didn't know that.'"

A feat she has definitely accomplished, with more than three million online viewers who now know that man bees fornicate to death and male whales have six-foot erections.

Want to see it?

- **Green Porno: Scandalous Sea** opens today and runs until Sept. 20 at the Spirit House, Level 1 of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal. The free installation that includes large paper props from the films will be accessible from the Bloor Street entrance of the Royal Ontario Museum.
- **Green Porno: Bon Appétit** is a screening followed by a talk with Isabella Rossellini and marine biologist Claudio Campagna about the environmental context of the project, and a short documentary about the mating habits of elephant seals. Takes place tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. at the Yonge and Dundas AMC.
- **Green Porno** debuts online Monday, Sept. 14 on sundancechannel.com and the Harper Collins releases the book nationwide on Sept. 22.

– HANNAH ZITNER

The versatile Ms. Clarkson

COLM HOGAN PHOTO

Actress Patricia Clarkson.

In the TIFF entry Cairo Time, a magazine editor played by Patricia Clarkson finds herself in Gaza falling for a man who isn't her husband.

It's a romantic drama about self discovery and just the kind of role we've come accustomed to seeing Clarkson play — serious and complicated.

Her best known work has a weight to it that seems to come naturally to her. Perhaps it is her deep voice or the fact that she's never really played the ingénue, but I always associate Clarkson with capitol "S" serious films. According to her, I've got it all wrong.

"I think most people see me as much darker, more serious and possessing a certain gravitas, when I'm really quite insane," says the New Orleans born actress.

She chalks up her on-screen image to — what else? — acting. "I go where I need to go. If I need to look glamorous or spiffy or young, or battling cancer, or a drugged-out hippie type, it hopefully will be projected in my face. That's the beauty of acting. It's not about hair and makeup; it's about being malleable."

That pliability has paid off handsomely in many of her lesser known films.

In High Art, Clarkson plays Greta, a forgotten actress who once starred in Fassbinder films. She's a drug addict so far gone she actually falls asleep during sex. It's a colourful, theatrical performance, but Clarkson carefully avoids the clichés of playing a junkie.

On a happier note is Simply Irresistible, a screwball romantic comedy in the vein of 1930s musicals. In this charming film, Clarkson plays Lois, a wisecracking secretary.

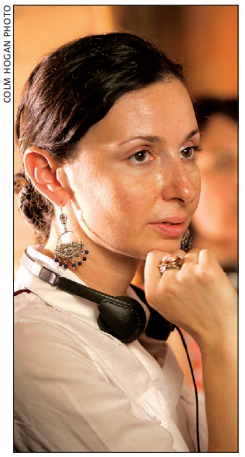
"If you need anything call me," she says to her boss, "although I don't know how to do anything except buy clothes." She's a decidedly earthbound character in this fantasy about a chef whose guardian angel gives her a gift that turns her food into the ultimate aphrodisiac.

Darker than Simply Irresistible is the creepy horror film Wendigo. Promoted as a cross between The Shining and Deliverance, it plays with classic horror conventions — city folks in the country pitted against psycho rednecks and the supernatural — but does so in a unique and compelling way. As usual Clarkson shines as the NYC mother thrown into a situation she doesn't understand.

These, and her other 40 plus film credits, prove that Patricia Clarkson is as versatile as she is malleable.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

COLM HOGAN PHOTO



Ruba Nadda's Cairo Time is based on her experience of being a tourist in Cairo.

Cairo Time explores gender politics

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

In Ruba Nadda's Cairo Time, Juliette, a Canadian magazine editor played by Patricia Clarkson, travels to the Egyptian capital to rendezvous with her husband; when he's held up at work, she resolves to go exploring on her own.

Her adventure is compromised, however, by groups of men who shadow her every time she leaves her hotel.

A solution presents itself in the form of her husband's friend Tarek (Alexander Siddig), who takes it upon himself to become Juliette's escort. These tense early scenes are based on Nadda's own experience of being a tourist in Cairo.

"I would visit (the city) with my sister," says the Montreal born filmmaker, "and it was impossible for the two of us to walk down the street together. We couldn't be outside by ourselves."

But Cairo Time is more than a critique of its eponymous locale: its honesty about the city's deep-seeded, deeply imbalanced gender politics is tempered by a sense of optimism about its rapidly changing social landscape.

"I've been visiting (Cairo) since I was 11-years-old," says Nadda, who spent part of her childhood in Damascus. "So I can also tell you about the changes there, and they're all positive.

"Fifty per cent of the population is under 25. So there is a burgeoning youth culture that is driving Cairo forward. There is no secret state police there, nobody is afraid of being arrested. The population is able to complain about their president, and free to try and change things."

Nevertheless, shooting on location proved to be something of a challenge: the director describes dealing with "10 different levels of bureaucracy," including a "censorship minder" who visited the set and asked to sign off on each reel.

Cairo Time premieres on Sunday at 8:30 p.m. at the Winter Garden Theatre. It also screens on Monday at Scotiabank Theatre.

"Fortunately, my mother taught me to speak Arabic," says Nadda, "so I was able to be a Canadian filmmaker and a local at the same time. That helped a lot. And the censorship wasn't about what you might think — it was about making sure that the city is well-represented to the rest of the world."

Nadda adds that the real surprise was finding out just how interested the people she encountered were in learning about the rest of the world. "When we were shooting in the white desert," she laughs, "we had Bedouins asking us about Seinfeld."

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TIFF • Film reviews

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Penelope Cruz plays an unhappy, kept actress in Pedro Almodovar's Broken Embraces, which screens today.

Broken Embraces a must-see

Broken Embraces
●●●●●

REVIEW Spanish enfant terrible Pedro Almodovar (who ain't such an "enfant" anymore, he turns 60 this month) is one of those filmmakers who, even when his output is lukewarm (1995's The Flower Of My Secret) it's usually head, shoulders and other extremities above most director's best work.

His latest stars Penelope Cruz (in fine, sensual form) as an unhappy, kept actress who finds passion for the first time in her life — with the expected tragic results.

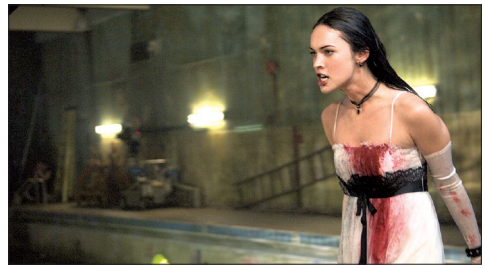
Once again, Almodovar mines classic Hollywood melodrama, serpentine storytelling, colourful visuals and hot sex to disarming effect.

A must-see.

Chris Alexander/Metro Canada

Antichrist
●●●●

REVIEW Lars Von Trier has always been a director with a passion for pushing buttons and torturing his audiences, but Antichrist takes the filmmaker's punishing style to all new levels.



The teen horror film Jennifer's Body's stars Megan Fox.

Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg head out to a cabin in the woods to sort out their marital woes only to end up doing unspeakable things to each other.

As with all movies this thematically and viscerally extreme, audiences will passionately love and despise Antichrist in equal measure.

Regardless of which camp you fall into, you'll certainly never forget it.

I loved it, so I guess I'm a sick puppy. **Phil Brown/Metro Canada**

An Education
●●

REVIEW The title of Lone Scherfig's '60s-set drama An Education is a double-entendre.

It refers to the Oxford aspirations of 16-year-old English private school girl Jenny (Carey Mulligan), and also the more practical lessons she learns during her whirlwind romance with a much older man (Peter Sarsgaard).

Complications ensue. But there's never any real doubt as to where the film is headed, as Nick Hornby's atypically flat script telegraphs Jenny's ethical dilemma well in advance.

Adam Nayman/Metro Canada

Jennifer's Body
●●

REVIEW Writer Diablo Cody (Juno) tries her hand at teen horror with this gory, mean-spirited, wannabe satire that's not half as clever (or scary) as it seems to think it is.

The material it mines has already been perfected with films like the still prickly Heathers and the "monsters as metaphor for menstruation" werewolf classic, Ginger Snaps.

Still, though Cody's snotty, faux–hip dialogue grates, star Megan Fox is both effectively sexy and sickening as the possessed, literally man-hungry cutie.

Chris Alexander/Metro Canada

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TIFF • Today's film screenings and parties

TIFF after **dark**

enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

The red carpet battle lines have been drawn as the Toronto International Film Festival hits the big scene, yet again, with 10 days of world premieres.

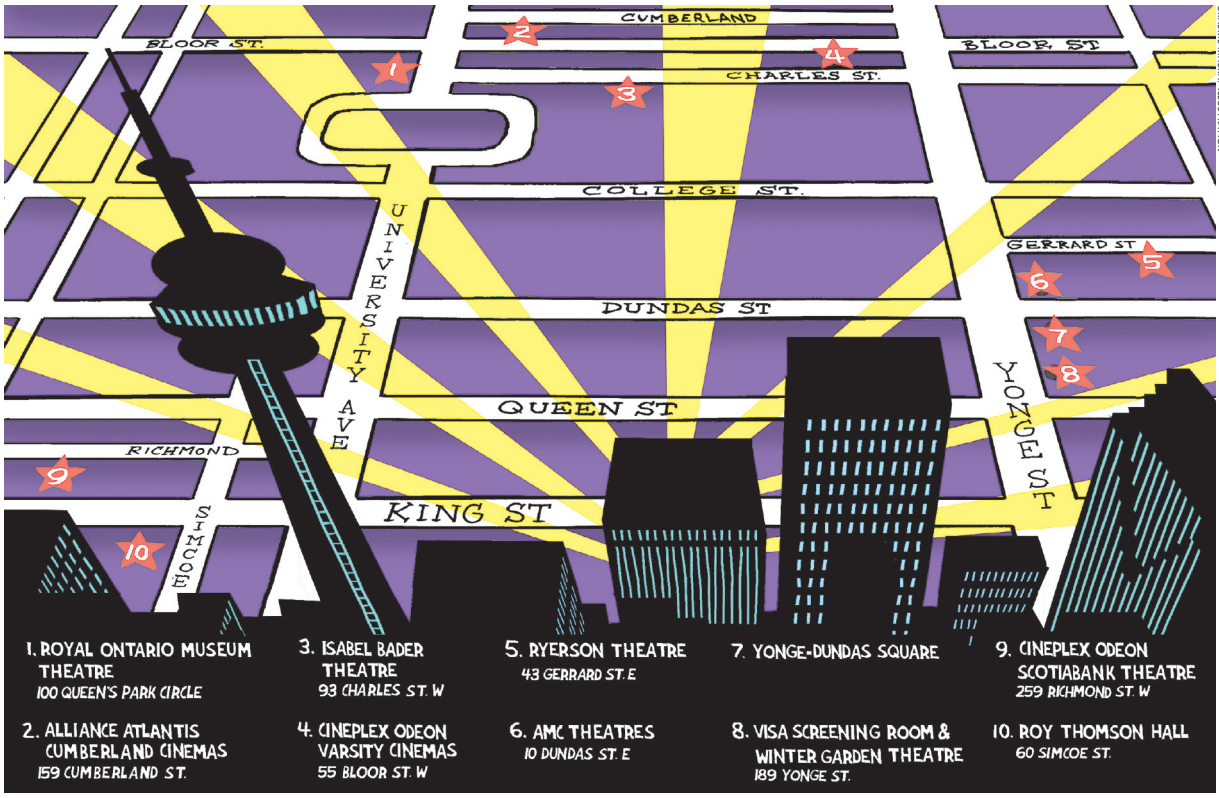
Forget the films, it's all about the non-stop cocktail galas, celebrity spotting and after-party schmoozing that will have you wondering which party to crash. Here's a party survival guide for the first night of festivities.

Things get underway with **TIFF's annual cocktail party** at the **Rosewater Supper Club** on Toronto Street. Local celebrities and industry insiders raise a glass in the hopes the film festival will bring them one step closer to Hollywood. The glass raising starts at 5 p.m.

Astral Media continues its festival tradition with the **opening gala night cocktail** for the film, **Creation**, at **Roy Thompson Hall**. The black-tie gathering kicks off at 5:30 p.m. followed by the very informal after-party at the **Liberty Grand** at 10 p.m.

If you're looking to go to a party that's a little meatier, than **Year of the Carnivore** celebrates its opening night at **Rolly's Garage** on Ossington. Canadian starlet **Sook-Yin Lee** will be revving things up. Party kicks into high gear at 10 p.m.

But don't worry if you miss out: there are nine more nights to catch up!



GRAEME MACKAY/ILLUSTRATION

ROY THOMSON HALL
60 Simcoe St.

Creation (Gala Presentation) 8 PM

VISA SCREENING ROOM
Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre Centre, 389 Yonge St..

Creation (Gala Presentation) 6:30 PM
Broken Embraces (Special Presentation) 9:30 PM

RYERSON THEATRE
Ryerson University
43 Gerrard St. E.

An Education (Special Presentation) 6 PM
Antichrist (Masters) 9 PM
Jennifer's Body (Midnight Madness) 11:59 PM

VARSITY 1
Manulife Centre
55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor

L'Enfer de Henri-Georges Clouzot (Real to Reel) 7:15 PM

VARSITY 2
Manulife Centre
55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor

Back Story/Cinema Museum (Future Projections) 5 PM

VARSITY 3
Manulife Centre
55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor

Nymph (Visions) 8:45 PM

VARSITY 8
Manulife Centre
55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor

Year Of The Carnivore preceded by Big Head (Canada First!) 7:30 PM

YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE

Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man noon
Steamboat Bill Jr. 3 PM
Live From Roy Thomson Hall 7 PM
Opening Night Concert: DJ Champion 9 PM

Box office info

- To buy tickets for the Toronto International Film Festival, call 416-968-3456, or 1-877-968-3456, or go to tiff.net/boxoffice.
- To buy at the box office, go to Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W. (in the white tent, west of the square). To Sept. 18, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. On Sept. 19, from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Or, you can buy tickets at the festival box office. Just head on over to Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St. Open to Sept. 18, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. On Sept. 19, it's open from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Upcoming star-studded soirees

It's that time of year again; TIFF has arrived and brought with it a slew of parties celebrating charities, luxury brands and individuals.

Even with talk of scaling back this year due to the recession, there is a plethora events — official or otherwise — for party people to see and be seen. However, the bashes are invite-only and therefore pretty much closed to the public. With that in mind, here's a taste of the star-studded soirees coming up.

Party: Artists for Peace and Justice Awareness Bash
When: Tomorrow, 11 p.m.
Where: Windsor Arms, 18 Thomas St.
Guestlist: Diane Lane and Demi Moore

Party: Suck premiere party
When: Tomorrow, 11:30 p.m.
Where: The Phoenix, 410 Sherbourne St.
Guestlist: Director Rob Stefaniuk and more

Party: One X One Gala
When: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Where: Kool Haus, 132 Queens Quay
Guestlist: Includes host Matt Damon and Mary J. Blige

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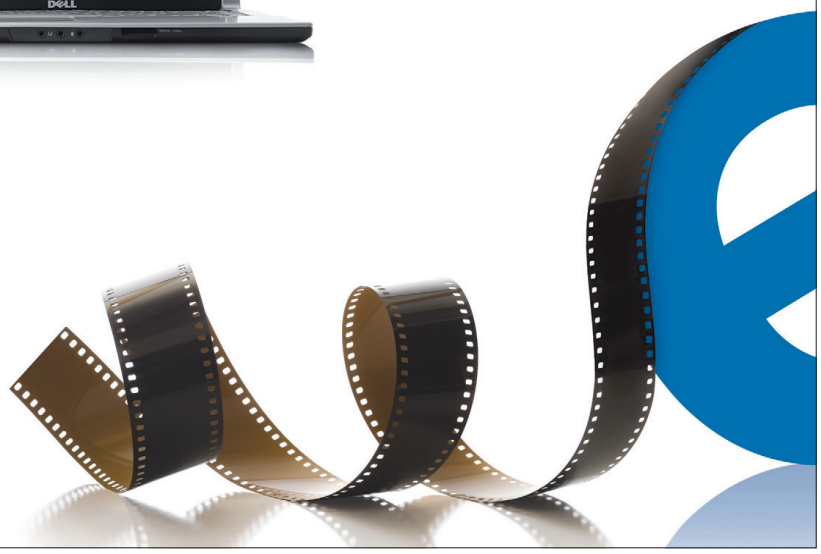

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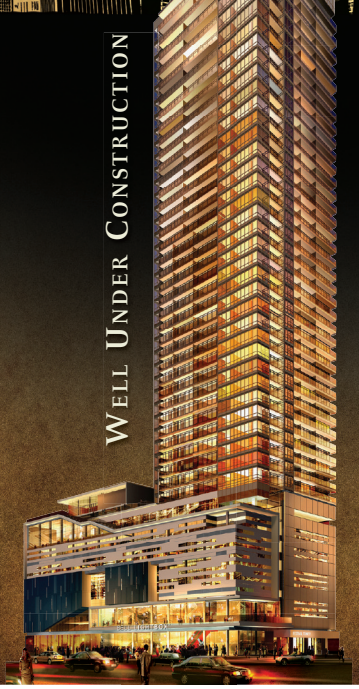

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Metro Homes

Special focus

This week's Homes section will feature a look at home renovations.

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

5-year variable mortgage rates
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BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
2.55%	2.65%	2.60%	3.50%	2.55%	2.55%	2.45%	2.55%	2.25%

Fun with family rooms

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

The family room has a big job to do. It hosts movie marathons, monthly book club meetings, Guitar Hero competitions and poker nights, all while providing ample seating and a place to put all the cards, cords and cases at the end of the day.

"Storage is key. Because we spend so much time in our family rooms, a lot of our belongings end up there," says, Jennifer Wilson-Speedy, editor of Yourhome.ca. "Look for clever solutions like storage ottomans, which can also double as seating and coffee tables."

While creating a comfy tidy space stuffed with warm blankets and swishy pillows is important also keep in mind that this room should reflect who you are as a family.

"A family room is a place to have fun, so break out your favourite colours, family photos and art," says Speedy. "My favourite rooms always have a quirky touch to them, which make the space feel alive and teaches you something about the family."

The Flip sofa chaise is all about options — if you don't like the chaise where it is, simply move it to the other side of the couch. When choosing a fabric, look for one that's stain-resistant and a neutral colour. Urban Barn, starting at $1334, urbanbarn.com.

Grab some popcorn, pop in your favourite flick, flip up your feet, and feel the stress melt away. Debbie Travis Leather Club Chair, $299.99, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

While it's perfect for housing those extra throws you only need now and then, the Emmet trunk also doubles as a rustic coffee table. Pottery Barn, $729, potterybarn.com.

"Storage is key."
Jennifer Wilson-Speedy, editor

Create a storage system for all the board game boxes, TV cords and video games with these faux leather collapsible boxes. Home Outfitters, $14.99 to $24.99, homeoutfitters.com.

Add texture and warm natural colours to your couch with these corduroy linen pillow covers. West Elm, $18 to $28, westelm.com.

Homes in Style

Fleece throws are a cozy addition to the family room. President's Choice Home, $9.99 for two, presidentschoice.ca.

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Style At Home Magazine
Read more in the September issue of Style at Home magazine.
ON SALE NOW! *styleathome.com*

Decor

CANADA'S styleathome

Serenity *now*

Slip into a dreamy bath, whether you splash out or save your pennies for a rainy day. Produced by Margot Austin

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW GRINTON

Here are a few items to get you started — Get the full details in October's Style At Home: Naos ThermoMasseur tub with 40 air jets $6,695, BainUltra. Provence freestanding tub filler in polished chrome $1,278; Luxe cotton towels in grey and white $106 each (bath sheet), Ginger's.

High: **$14,401**

Glass-door cabinet $1,850, Camilla House Imports. Virginian wood-frame mirror $198, Lowe's.

Glass-and-crystal bubble-and-drop pendant light $530, Universal Lamp.

Compare similar items at a fraction of the price — Full details in Style At Home: Victoria + Albert York soaker tub $2,900, freestanding tub filler in polished chrome $518, Canaroma International. PC Rejuvenate cotton towels in medium grey and white $17 each (bath sheet), President's Choice Home Collection.

Liatorp glass-door cabinet $500, Hemnes wood-frame mirror $90, IKEA.

Borealis glass-and-crystal bubble-and-drop pendant light $304, RONA.

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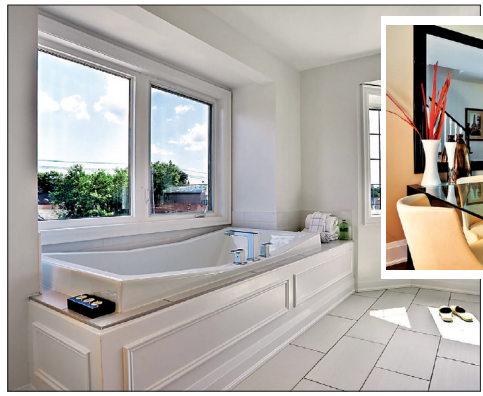
Upper Beach inspires

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Taking the beach as its inspiration, Upper Beach Manors melds a calming presence with elegance and practicality.



Seen here are some shots from the Upper Beach Manors.

Located at Gerrard Street East and Main at the northern edge of The Beach neighbourhood, Upper Beach Manors embraces its fun-loving Eastern Toronto side while maintaining a sense of quiet luxury throughout its 28 luxury townhome units.

Interior designer Enid MacIntosh of design firm Bryon Patton & Associates, says her goal with the spacious 1,850 square-foot townhome model suite was to elicit both the serene and the stimulating throughout the unit.

"I think there should be a sense of calm and excitement at the same time. You can see the personality varies in each room," MacIntosh said.

While the spare bedrooms of the model suite feature a strong, vibrant colour palette the master bedroom is an oasis of elegance with cooler, unified tones and a gorgeous spa bathroom complete with a six-foot-long deep soaker tub and porcelain flooring.

A soft palette of shades from sand and sea dominates the suite with yellowy creams gently blending with wasabi-turquoise highlights, accented with bright punches of colour.

The marble foyer, granite countertops, rich dark wood flooring and beautiful millwork throughout on stairs and handrails reveals an elegant approach to classic good looks.

"We definitely chose things that have a really solid, classic, cleaner look," MacIntosh said.

The model suite's 1,850 square feet offer a generous amount of space meant not only to impress but to truly provide an immensely practical amount of living room MacIntosh expects people will make full use of.

"It's a very liveable space that's well laid out, so you can really live in it. People want that room to collect, expand and live," MacIntosh said.

Other suites range in size up to 2,060 square feet and prices run from $499,900 to $622,900 and all suites at the development were built without presales, meaning you can see exactly what you're getting and move in within 60 days.

For more information, visit upperbeachmanors.com.

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For a limited time you can save up to 40% on selected items during Idomo's President's Sale. I have personally marked down items to offer you the best savings during this clearance event. Some pieces are in limited quantities so don't delay. ~ Gerrit

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Consider neighbours to avoid renovation disputes

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Avoiding fights with your neighbours over home and property renovations starts with cultivating good relationships with them and being civil and reasonable about your needs.

Whether you're planning some future renovations or not, Peter Bruer, manager of conflict resolution services at St. Stephen's Community House in downtown Toronto, says keeping up a pleasant relationship with your neighbours during the good times is a great way to build some goodwill capital for later.

"The best way to avoid disputes is to cultivate some kind of relationship with your neighbour when you don't have any problems. It makes it easier to approach them so that later when you need them, you're not going in cold," Bruer said.

Think reasonably before you begin any major renovations — if you know your weekend deck-building is going to be a nightmare of loud power saws and wind-blown wood chippings, warn your neighbour in advance and see if you can see eye-to-eye on any possible accommodations for each other. Show that you're willing to listen to their concerns and they will feel respected and be more receptive, Bruer says.

St. Stephen's is a non-profit, donor-funded agency offering completely free dispute resolution services to community members who want to avoid the courtroom in their disputes with neighbours; similar dispute resolution centres abound throughout major cities across Canada. Bruer recommends contacting an agency like St. Stephen's long before you get to the shouting-match phase of a dispute.

If common sense and civility fails, you will be left with no choice but the legal option of hiring a lawyer and taking your neighbour to court. Be warned, however, that going to court is pretty much a scorched-earth maneuvre as the costs, stresses, wasted time and ultimate emotional price of a legal battle are unlikely to be satisfying for either party.

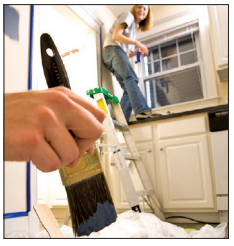
Legal costs are usually high, with lawyers' fees in a dispute starting at around $150 per hour and the final tab can grow to astronomical heights.

Most importantly, Bruer says taking the legal route is likely to backfire.

"Even if you win, you've now poisoned your relationship with that neighbour forever. Who likes living next to a neighbour who hates them?" Bruer said.

Easy to paint cabinets

LEYLA EMORY
for Metro Canada


A fresh coat of paint is one of the most effective home improvements you can make

A fresh coat of paint on cabinetry and furniture is one of the more simple and effective home improvements you can do. Provided you can do it.

The first step is to "remove all cabinet hardware, doors, drawers and hinges and label each piece to ensure it is reattached in the proper location," according to the experts at Home Depot Canada.

"Whether you're painting or staining, never work with the door hanging," says George Cuccovillo, president of The Painters Group. Place it on a flat surface so it's easy for you to work on."

Next, thoroughly clean all surfaces. Cabinetry or furniture, the key is to have a good base on which to apply the paint. "Wipe it with a cloth and cleaner. Give it a good sanding. Patch up any holes or gaps with caulking and give it a good sanding," says Cuccovillo. "Then prime the piece before painting or staining."

When applying a stain, the amount of time it stays on the wood determines the intensity of the colour. For beginners, Cuccovillo recommends applying the stain, drying it with a rag right away and repeating the process until the desired colour is achieved. It's safer because "you can always go darker, but lighter, you have to start from scratch." Finish with a water- or oil-based varnish, depending on the desired look. "You can give it a flat finish, semi gloss, satin, or high-gloss finish. The oils give more of a high-gloss finish and the water-based more of a flat finish."

Paint is more forgiving, but it takes longer.

"With paint, the colour you see is the colour you get. You don't have to wait to rag it. Just brush it on," says Cuccovillo. To achieve a smooth surface, he recommends using a sponge roller. For a more durable finish, he suggests going with an oil-based paint.

But always wait for the first layer to dry before applying the next coat. The time it takes to dry can depend on the temperature in the room.

"Generally, oil paint takes a few hours to dry," he says. "But if the weather is humid it can take longer so you have to make your own judgment. If the paint is still tacky, it's not ready."

You can do as many coats as you want with paint, but be careful not to lose the details in the piece. And since the desired finish is already in the paint, there's no need for varnish. You did it.

Reading those smoke signals

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q I am a condo owner and have a smoke alarm in my unit that was malfunctioning. The condo corporation hired a contractor to fix the alarm and now they have back-charged me for the work. Can I refuse to pay as it is one of the requirements of the corporation to have a functioning smoke alarm?

A You raise an interesting point that is a bit more complex than you might imagine.

Contained in the documents for the condominium are rules and regulations that cover all kinds of situations and components of your communal living. Usually, somewhere in the constating documents, the question of who is responsible for the smoke alarm is addressed. I have seen both sides of the situation wherein the condominium pays for the upkeep or the owners of the individual units need to address any deficiencies. You need to look to these documents for the answer to your question. Your Board of Directors and the management office can probably point you to the exact spot where this information is set out.

Regardless, this question points out a somewhat obvious but often overlooked issue that condo owners forget. They are living in a communal environment and there are rules that affect their activities — from when they can move in and out to where they should be putting their recycling and garbage. It is extremely important that owners make themselves aware of their rights and obligations with respect to the condo they live in.

If for example the smoke alarm was the responsibility of the owner of the unit and they refused to pay for its' repair, the condominium corporation has the right to place a lien on the property, which would show up if they tried to sell their home. They would end up paying for the equipment repair out of the sale proceeds or even before the unit was transferred to the new owner. Always read the fine print.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

As the days get shorter, wasps become opportunistic eaters and they're quite happy to crash picnics and backyard meals.

He's coming for you

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz
metronews.ca/homescape

Is there someone in your household who absolutely freaks out when wasps start to buzz around?

Well, there's a lot of freaking on going on around my house these days. My daughter cannot seem to help herself — she starts flailing about in a strange panicky dance whenever a wasp or several of them start plaguing her. Not a wise move, I tell her, but it doesn't seem to make any difference.

Wasps may seem to be your enemy, but they're not. Some wasps (such as the slender inch-long paper wasps) leave you alone, more or less. The shiny, stout-bodied but narrow-waisted yellow-jacket wasps, on the other hand, are simply very focused on their sugar-gathering chores in the late summer, exhibiting persistence and a bulldog-like tenacity.

My friends and their daughters are certainly familiar with them, and I'm sure you are too. Their population is at its highest in the fall since their hard-working queen has been producing larvae all summer, so there really are a lot of them looking for food. As the days get shorter, flowers and other plants start to die back, so wasps become opportunistic eaters and — my oh my — are they happy to crash picnics and backyard meals. Unfortunately, yellow-jackets can also be aggressive around food sources (even if it's your supper), and will sting when they feel threatened.

"Wasps may seem to be your enemy, but they're not. Some wasps (such as the slender inch-long paper wasps) leave you alone, more or less."

So give them lots of room. There are common sense rules, such as no flapping about. And if you eat or drink outdoors, minimize the food you expose. Cover serving dishes of salads, meats and deserts or better yet, serve them from inside the house.

If you eat outside, you'd be best to eat quickly and clean up your dirty dishes as quickly as possible. Also watch your plate and drinks such as pop or beer to avoid eating a wasp. Wasps do regularly crawl into tins of pop or beer and can easily end up in your mouth, where they will sting, so avoid tins. Finally, if wasps are numerous, you may just decide to surrender and go inside to eat your dinner, and nobody would think the worse of you.

Other basics include keeping garbage and compost well covered. Also avoid setting out dishes of cat or dog food outside. Wasps cannot resist ripe or rotting fruit, such as pears or apples, so if you have a fruit tree, it makes sense to clean up fallen fruit.

If you're planning an outdoor event in your backyard, you may want to set a few traps beforehand to reduce the population. See natural-insect-control.com or visit Lee Valley (leevalley.com) for a non-toxic wasp trap. You can also make your own with a pop bottle (see pest-controlcanada.com for instructions). Some people also swear that rubbing or spraying tea tree oil, neem oil where you notice they seem to congregate, or in areas where humans hang out, seems to discourage them.

If you must get rid of a yellow-jacket wasp nest, consider hiring a pest control specialist, especially if the nest is large or difficult to access.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

A $14 fixture looks like a $3,000 toilet

LEYLA EMORY
for Metro Canada

RENO Updated kitchens and bathrooms can mean money. But the right upgrades can mean savings.

"Product ideas and approaches to decorating are the two big tickets to saving money," says Kristan Cunningham, former host of HGTV's Design on a Dime.

Since appliances are "where you'll put down the biggest chunk of change when you take on a kitchen or bathroom remodel," according to Cunningham, start at the source. "Most appliance stores have a scratch and dent section. Once something has been used as a floor model or has been unpackaged, they have to discount it because technically it's not brand new merchandise. Maybe when they took it out of the packaging it got a scratch. Because of that you may get 25 -30 per cent taken off. So there can be huge savings."

From there Cunningham recommends her "fabulous in the front, budget in the back" technique. She suggests using Ikea kitchen cabinet boxes but investing in a custom kitchen cabinet doors. Or use a box door cabinet line from Ikea and dress it up with more expensive hardware from Restoration Hardware. "At the end of the day, the details are what makes an entire space feel high end."

The same is true in bathrooms. Instead of replacing the entire sink or toilet look at improving the fixtures.

"Most people don't know this but places like Lowe's or Home Depot have a section in the plumbing department that sells replacement fixtures. For instance just the bathtub valve or toilet flushers — mine was oil rubbed bronze. I think I spent $14 on it and everyone thinks it's a $3,000 toilet, it looks so high-end."

Aside from the details, materials are a great way to upgrade a look and save on cost. "My favourite buy right now is the butcher block at Ikea. There's nothing cheaper that you can put in your house that looks as high-end. If you're going to put in a laminate or can't afford granite or stone, butcher block gives you a timeless completely high-end look at a fraction of the cost."

Faucet frenzy

- HGTV's Kristan Cunningham recommends checking out Ikea's new line of faucets. "They have no markings and are very industrial looking."

Plan ahead to sell well

TheHunt

Amit Paul
Metronews.ca/thehunt

With the exception of the downtown Toronto condo market, how much a seller can get for their home, and how quickly, depends on much more than just the actual value of the home.

Grace has decided to put her home on the market. Her first step is finding a realtor she can trust, ideally one who comes from a trustworthy source who has nothing but kind things to say even after their deal has finished. Grace's second step is settling on a list price. Grace's realtor says her home should sell for around $410,000. This number, of course, is determined after discussing the comparable solds as well as Grace's current competition. If there are a number of homes for sale in Grace's neighbourhood, it would be a good idea to view those homes and get a real feel for where she stands in comparison.

If she needs to sell within a month, she needs to list very close to $410K. If she has a window of a few months Grace can list perhaps around $430,000.

If Grace plans on listing in July, the window of an extra month or two isn't a smart option. Most homes like hers will sell before September so that the kids can get into school. She needs to price aggressively. If she were listing in February, then maybe she could hope for a special buyer willing to pay more.

Perhaps most important, Grace shouldn't be listing her place until it is 100 per cent ready to show. I cannot stress this enough. If she needs to clean up the basement, paint one of the washrooms, fix a few lights, etc., she should do this all (and her realtor should be telling her this) before it's open to a single buyer. Grace shouldn't be home during the showings, and she shouldn't be cooking anything other than apple pie before the showings!

For more information, feel free to contact Amit at amitp@rogers.com.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

UPDATE YOUR LOOK

Fall Home Show

Part 1 – Renovations

Denise Surette

If you're thinking of changing your home décor or making a major renovation, stopping by the Fall Home Show presented by RE/MAX with questions and ideas may help you plan your best course.

October's Fall Home Show at the Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place features four days of renovation help, design ideas and entertaining hints for everyone.

This year, the hot topic is how to take advantage of the home renovation tax credit and EcoEnergy Retrofit grants, while turning your property green and energy efficient.

The Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), a part owner in the Fall Homes Show, will have an exhibit set up specifically to answer questions for home renovators on going green. Stephen Dupuis, president and CEO of BILD, says this exhibit will be important to renovators who want to do the job properly.

"We're offering a chance for people to talk to a real live contractor, and ask them the same questions as if they were sitting in their living room giving them a quote," says Dupuis. "They can ask how long will it take and how much."

Tax credits and grants are available from both the federal and provincial governments. With up to $5,000 for the EcoEnergy initiative and $1,350 for the tax credit available until January 2010, now is the time to start your dream project. Bringing your blueprints to the Home Show could save you a bundle: You have access to the experts, without paying for their time.

The Fall Home Show will also feature a workshop series for renovators with the help of HGTV. Bryan Baeumler, host of the popular television show Disaster DIY, will host a workshop to help you decipher green marketing and build with green practices. The workshop will also show you where to put your energy to make the most out of your green renovation.

The Fall Home Show** is taking place Thursday, Oct. 1 to Sunday, Oct. 4 at the Better Living Centre in Exhibition Place. Admission for adults is $13, and you can save when you buy tickets online at **www.fallhomeshow.com

Buy tickets online + save $4 with promo code: RENOVATE

COURTESY OF BILD

FALL HOME SHOW
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Many options to finance your reno

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

When picking how to finance your home renovation, don't overlook the strength of your home's own equity as a fountain of finance.

Since the money you spend renovating your home will help to boost its value, securing credit with your home equity is often a synergistic choice.

"Canadians like to be in control of their situation and when they want to renovate the home, they want to renovate it on their own terms. Leveraging your home to increase its value is a smart decision," said John Turner, director of mortgages at BMO.

Small renovations can usually be handled by your credit card, but for large renovations that require a larger pool of resources, several long-term financing options exist. For comparison, Turner offers an example payment calculation for each option, assuming a home renovation requiring $25,000 of credit at the best possible interest rates for each choice.

A traditional bank loan can work, but it's far from the most effective option. Bank loans tend to procure higher interest rates than other options and are only really useful if you know exactly how much money you're going to need for your reno — an unlikely scenario since few renovations run exactly on schedule and on budget. Example payments: about $447 per month for five years.

A second mortgage is generally much more affordable than a bank loan, but it puts more long-term pressure on your finances. That's about $152 per month for 25 years.

A line of credit offers a lot of flexibility, both in how much money you can access and how you can pay it off, but it can be expensive to handle. It works by granting you access to borrowing limit where you only pay interest on what you borrow, and you can secure it with your house as collateral to get more credit. That's about $750 per month, going down as you pay off your balance.

The final option is a hybrid that Turner suggests is often the best option: a combination mortgage plus line of credit, usually backed by your home's equity. As long as you start with either a 20 per cent down payment or 20 per cent of equity already built in your home, your monthly mortgage payments actually increase your borrowing reserve on a simultaneous line of credit. BMO is famous for its own version called the Homeowner ReadiLine, though a few other borrowers offer similar options. This is about $67 per month.

However you decide to finance your renovation, remember to always consider the big picture.

"You want to make sure you balance your short-term needs with your long-term wants and goals," Turner said.

About the HRTC

- The Home Renovation Tax Credit of up to $1,350 applies to alterations "of an enduring nature and integral to the dwelling," meaning anything that is nailed down or wouldn't get transported away.
- The HRTC eligible expenditures are more than $1,000.
- For more, log on to cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2009/fqhmrnvtn-eng.html.

Upcoming home & design shows

Home trade shows are a great place to discover renovation tips and great decorating ideas. Here's what you can look forward to this fall:

- **Toronto Fall Home Show**, runs Oct. 1-4 at Exhibition Place. It will showcase more than 250 vendors in the renovation and decoration market. Among the highlights, Bryan Baeumler from HGTV's hit show Disaster DIY will be on hand to give a workshop on how to avoid renovation disasters. Canada's ToolGirl, Mag Ruffman, will also give a workshop on creating a renovation rescue kit. Visit fallhomeshow.com for more.
- **International Home Show**, runs Oct. 9-12 at the International Centre in Mississauga. Celebrity chef Ken Kostick will be on hand to talk cooking tips and style expert Lynn Spence from CityLine will be a primary speaker at the show. Visit home-show.net for more.

– RAFAEL BRUSILOW

First ever stiletto sprint
StyleSense, a shoe and accessories retail chain by the creators of Winners, is hosting Canada's first ever stiletto sprint on Friday. Women will race 100 metres in three-inch heels to win a $10,000 prize. The race takes place at Ontario Place, 8:25 a.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

New Lululemon line

Lululemon Athletica Inc. is launching a new line of clothing called Ivivva Athletica aimed at preteen girls, a move analysts say will open the yoga-inspired retailer to a new and underserved market. Vancouver-based Lululemon said the brand, aimed at girls ages six to 12, will be tested with three stores in Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary starting in November. Lululemon chief executive Christine Day said the new brand is meant to fill a need in the market, as well as protect the Lululemon brand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Waist-whittling wearables

Clothes that give you the tummy tuck without the surgery

JANINE FALCON
For Metro Canada

These days we're all working harder than ever. Nice to know some of our clothes can work harder too.

They can't take the place of healthy, active living, but garments with tummy-taming job descriptions can help pick up a little workout slack, and camouflage bits we'd rather keep under wraps.

We're not talking underpinnings, although a pair of Spanx (the best-known name in shapewear) is a must for smooth lines under that favourite little dress. Instead, when we don't want to wriggle into an extra layer, we can turn to clothing brands such as Mark's Work Wearhouse, Melanie Lyne, Spanner and Old Navy for waist-whittling wearables that also slim the hips and lift the derrière.

"Many women want to look 10 pounds thinner, no matter what size they are," comments freelance fashion stylist Ingrie Williams, whose work has appeared in many of Canada's top magazines and on CityTV. "Wardrobe items with tummy-control benefits can offer shaping without feeling like a girdle."

Generally constructed with variations of a built-in control panel across the inside front, and from denim with varying stretch from one to five per cent, jeans are the most popular figure-enhancing workhorse. In Williams' view, "they're a practical addition to any jean wardrobe." As well, their fit and comfortable design make them a good try-again point for women who have found past jean experiences unsatisfactory.

"Wardrobe items with tummy-control benefits can offer shaping without feeling like a girdle."
Ingrie Williams, freelance fashion stylist

If Not Your Daughter's Jeans sounds familiar, it's thanks to positive performance reviews from celebs such as Rachel Ray, Jane Seymour and Diane Sawyer. Part of the appeal is a patented denim weave that resists stretch in the front, and a size range that includes petites and plus.

Old Navy's The Dreamer classic-rise, curvy-silhouette jean is new this season. In addition to shaping, it has a contoured waistband to help minimize waist bulge and gaping at the back. Sizes go from zero to 20 regular.

Also making its debut is the Fit to Flatter jean from Canadian company Spanner, which makes regular, petite and plus sizes. Melanie Lyne's Off the Record classic-fit jean, also Canadian, launched this past spring and fits up to size 16; a contemporary fit with a slightly lower rise and slimmer, boot-cut leg just hit stores for fall.

Mark's Work Wearhouse Curvetech collection (yes, Canadian too) now offers the widest variety of silhouette-enhancing garment styles — 40 in all — from jeans to capris to yoga-wear to dress pants, as well as a Total Control skirt. Sizing goes from two to 18 (up to 20 in denim), with 30, 32 and 34 inseams in some styles.

Mark's Work Wearhouse Curvetech Janet Skirt ($49.99). marks.com

Above: Mark's Work Wearhouse Curvetech Janet Pant ($49.99) marks.com

Left: Old Navy Dreamer jean ($39.50)

Left: Not Your Daughter's jeans resin wash boot cut ($169) tummytuck jeans.ca

Melanie Lyne Off The Record jeans ($95). melanie lyne.com

Victoria's Secret coming to Canada

NEW STORE No girls-only voyage to Buffalo or New York City is complete without an afternoon spent admiring the silky treasures of Victoria's Secret. For some, Victoria's Secret is the only thing on the agenda.

But bra-specific road trips may soon become a thing of the past. In what is perhaps the most highly anticipated American invasion since Obama's trip to Parliament Hill, Victoria's Secret stores are finally expanding into Canada.

Limited Brands Inc., the parent company of Victoria's Secret, already dipped a toe into our lingerie market with their acquisition of Canadian chain La Senza in 2007.

"We have a tremendous footprint with La Senza operating more than 300 stores in Canada," Brooke Stull of Limited Brands told Metro via email. "We're currently testing a new La Senza store layout and an assortment that focuses on new bra and panty styles ... and we're planning to open... the first four PINK stores in Canada."

Victoria's Secret PINK is phase one of the brand's Canadian infiltration, beginning next month. An offshoot of the Victoria's Secret brand, PINK and its merchandise focuses on collegiate loungewear and athletica, ultimately targeting a more youthful market than its seductive older sister. Traditional Victoria's Secret stores are scheduled to arrive in Canada in the spring of 2010.

SOFI PAPAMARKO/
FOR METRO CANADA

Gunn fights fashion crime as new Marvel comic character

PEOPLE Tim Gunn is taking his fight against fashion crimes from the workrooms of Project Runway to the pages of a comic book. And, wow, does he get to wear a power suit.

The Loaded Gunn story line — to save an exhibit of extraordinary superhero clothes from a cadre of villains — is part of a book that reintroduces a group of Marvel's high-fashion Models Inc. comic characters from the 1960s.

"It's a little America's Next Top Model — without Tyra (Banks) — and a little Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," says Marvel editor Charlie Beckerman.

The Gunn project evolved on a whim but it turned out Gunn was a childhood comic fan and a good sport, Beckerman says.

Gunn says the experience has been "the most bizarre thing."

"It's exciting and exhilarating, but bizarre. When they came to me, I said, 'I'm about to turn 56 years old. Are they crazy?' But it kept revealing itself in layers and next thing, I'm wearing the Iron Man suit. I was dumbstruck."

Personally, Gunn says he always fancied himself more of a Batman type but he's pleased with the result.

"Most superheroes are fighting the same thing — good vs. evil — but who's taking on crimes against fashion? Me!"

The biggest offence, hands down: Clothes that don't fit properly, Gunn says. And, if he had the truly incredible power to remove one item from closets all around the world, no question it would be foam sandals Crocs.

"It's the No. 1 fashion crime item — and I see it a lot," Gunn says.

Tim Gunn

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oprah supports Met fashion exhibit

NEW YORK Oprah Winfrey is on board to host the annual gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute next spring, supporting an exhibit that focuses on the style of American women.

American Woman: Fashioning a National Identity will trace the archetypes of dress and femininity from 1890 to 1940, and then examine how they affect how women are perceived today.

"The ideal of the American woman evolved from a dependence on European, Old World ideas of elegance into an independent New World sensibility that reflected freedoms still associated with American women today," said curator Andrew Bolton in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elegant arm candy at Eleven

Glam things up for a movie premiere or the upcoming holiday season with fashion boutique Eleven's new Clara Kasavina handbags, purses and clutches. Eleven is located at 116 Cumberland in Yorkville. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TIFF red carpet gets revamped

TIFF Before the stars get to strut down the red carpet outside Roy Thomson Hall, the roll of crimson nylon had to make it through customs.

The runner, sponsored by Holt Renfrew, is manufactured in the town of Dalton, Ga. — also known as the Carpet Capital of the World.

There, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the carpet was cut, dyed and stamped with Holt's logo before being loaded into a cargo truck and transported to Toronto.

The need for a new red rug came after Toronto International Film Festival planners reconfigured the event designs at Roy Thomson Hall. Rather than enter on Simcoe St., the carpet will snake around the back of the building.

"It's going to be wider and longer. Just think like Cannes or the Oscars," said Gwen Gibson, the national director of special events at Holt Renfrew.

"It's going to be more expansive so there will be more opportunity to see the stars."

The new carpet will be 45 metres 50 yards long, nearly half the length of a Canadian football field. But that much material isn't easy to move.

Appel ÖLtd., the company storing the carpet, will use two or three men to deliver the roll to Roy Thomson, said owner Tony Cooper.

"It has to be handled carefully. You can't get a crease or a wrinkle, especially on a carpet this important," he said.

"(The TIFF red carpet) is going to be more expansive so there will be more opportunity to see the stars."
Gwen Gibson, Holt Renfrew's national director of special events

The runner will then be affixed on the ground using tape, ensuring the material doesn't bubble or move while celebrities are walking on it.

Once the festival has ended, the carpet will be cleaned and put into storage. Gibson expects the runner to last about three years of being stomped by stilettos.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kenya'sStyle
Kenya Hunt
View New York Fashion Week video interviews at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Designers dish on TIFF looks

We asked four designers what is red-carpet fashionable

BRANDON R. DWYER

Q What are some tips on how the average person can get the red carpet look?

A Don't over think it! I always recommend picking an outfit that emphasizes your best feature, and that, most importantly, makes you feel beautiful, nothing is more alluring than confidence. Don't be afraid to take a risk — colour is a great way to feel a little daring; just make sure you keep your accessories, hair and makeup simple and chic. I personally like when someone can wear an elaborate dress and keep their hair understated — like a slicked back pony or even bone straight hair ... My favourite for this season is the Brandon R Dwyer leather panelled mini dress – it's tough and sexy without sacrificing being feminine.

— BRANDON R. DWYER, DESIGNER

PHILIP SPARKS

Q What do you think would make a good film festival look? (If you were dressing a star.)

A For men, I'd recommend a classic charcoal grey two button blazer with a pair of tailored trousers. Pairing the darker suit with different shirts means you can wear it out night after night. If the event is extra formal, we did an oversized black bowtie for fall. Adding one to the suit dresses it up and you won't have to rent a bad fitting tux.

Q What about hair styles?

A My favorite trend in men's hair is a classic 1950s barbershop haircut. Clean, close and simple.

— PHILIP SPARKS, DESIGNER

NADA

Toronto International Film Festival
TIFF

Q What do you think would make a good film festival look? (If you were dressing a star.)

A We are actually dressing Lisa Ray during TIFF for her film screening of Cooking With Stella. I personally like red carpet looks that are dramatic and fantastical. A balance should be achieved between the spectacular and the person that you are dress. It all depends on their body type, personality and which body parts they are most comfortable with ... A cocktail dress is important because it is safe and easy ... It can take you from dinner to a gala event.

— NADA SHEPHERD, DESIGNER FOR NADA

DANIER

Q What do you think would make a good film festival look? (If you were dressing a star.)

A Stars that aren't afraid to take a fashion risk always end up stealing the spotlight. This (year) attendees can go a little more edgy by adding a great piece in this season's hottest trend, leather. A great cropped Danier motorcycle jacket worn over a frilly girly dress strikes just the right balance of tough and sweet for a look that is going to own the red carpet.

Q What about makeup?

A This season the eyes have it! Play up your dramatic side with ultra sexy, glam smoky eyes in greys and charcoals.

— OLGA KOEL, HEAD MERCHANT FOR DANIER

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CSI

Surgery for McGowan
In an extensive stunt gone wrong, Rose McGowan brought the Red Sonja set to a standstill. The actress was taken to hospital where she underwent wrist and elbow surgery. "They took part of my elbow out. I had really bad nerve damage from doing stunts." McGowan recently told Fox News. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment

Pam's new man
Pamela Anderson is reportedly dating Jamie Padgett, an electrician she met at a trailer park where the former wife of Kid Rock was staying while work was being done on her house. **PEOPLE.COM**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Jay-Z drafts catchy Blueprint

GETTY IMAGES

The Blueprint 3, the 11th album from hip-hop superstar Jay-Z, is now available.

Jay-Z

Album: The Blueprint 3
Label: Warner
Rating: ●●●●

ON JAY-Z'S 11TH album he lambastes his hip-hop cohorts for using the annoying vocal effect auto-tune. But the music mogul didn't have to do that — just listen to his new disc and you'll know he'll never need auto-tune to sound good. More than a decade after he released Reasonable Doubt, Jay-Z is still a brilliant artist who can out rap just about anyone. The Blueprint 3 is catchy, thoughtful and has a bevy of guest stars, including Alicia Keys whose soaring vocals on Empire State of Mind are as stunning as Jigga's best raps.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Cana-

Die Mannequin

Album: Fino + Bleed
Label: Warner
Rating: ●●●

da

THERE'S NO DOUBT that Toronto hard rockers Die Mannequin are moments away from huge success. The female fronted duo's blistering guitars and aggressive vocals from Care Failure is exactly what the Lady Gaga obsessed music world needs right now. And the band's infectious sound, which is at its most polished and mainstream, should catapult the group to the next level. For fans though, the new disc lacks the rawness and the in-your-face creativity of their early EPs. That's a good thing when courting the masses, but followers might be a bit disappointed.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Cana-

Cuff The Duke

Album: Way Down Here
Label: Noble/Universal
Rating: ●●●½

da

BLUE RODEO CO-FOUNDER Greg Keelor has emerged as some kind of grandfather/patron to the neo-alt-country generation, first as mentor to The Sadies and now as producer of Cuff the Duke, a wonderfully talented four-piece outfit that emerged seven years ago out of the rusting suburbs of Oshawa with an improbable taste for early '70s folk-rock, ala CSN&Y. Cuff the Duke shows a new talent for gentle harmony vocals on the opening track You Were Right, while pushing the edges with fiery Neil Young-like extended electric guitar on tracks like It's All a Blur and Promises. Cuff the Duke are the obvious inheritors of the Blue Rodeo estate, but the band is searching still for one of those knock-out singles like Hasn't Hit Me Yet that would give them a national stature.

Two Hours Traffic

Album: Territory
Label: Bumstead/Universal
Rating: ●●●

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

AFTER 2007'S FANTASTIC rocker Little Jabs, the pressure was on for Two Hours Traffic to push themselves even harder. Unfortunately, their latest record — again produced by Joel Plaskett — falls flat. Territory is darker, and musically many of the songs are more complex, but the tunes are also much quieter and laid-back than what's on their previous effort. And, unfortunately, it doesn't work as well. It was the band's visceral energy and Sloan-like feel that garnered them a Polaris Music Prize nomination last year, and without that the passion and intensity doesn't come through as well.

Amy Millan

Album: Masters of the Burial
Label: Arts and Crafts
Rating: ●●●

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

THE DECISION BY Amy Millan, best known as lead singer for Canadian indie-pop band The Stars, to record Sarah Harmer's Old Perfume was done out of deep respect, but it probably wasn't a wise one. Dit-to with Jenny Whiteley's Baby I. These happen to be the two best crafted songs on Millan's second solo album Masters of the Burial. That's probably not a good thing, if you're trying to establish yourself as a singer-songwriter. Both Harmer and Whiteley have their locks on the category, which leaves Millan coming off like a passing visitor. Still it's hard to resist the charm of her voice and the superb backing musicianship Millan has gathered here.

MusicReviews

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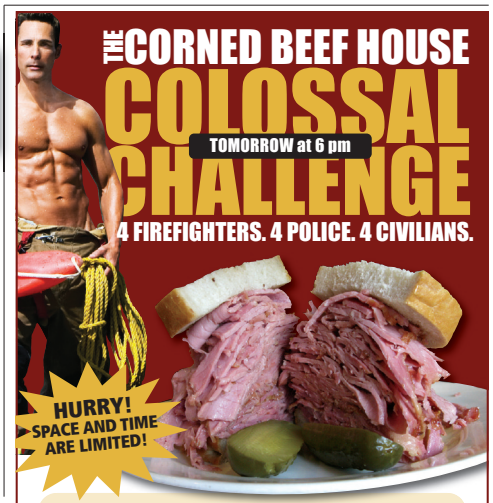

Lohan joins French design house

Lindsay Lohan is joining Emanuel Ungaro as an "artistic adviser," according to Women's Wear Daily. The French design house counts stars like Eva Longoria Parker and Rachel McAdams among its current clientele. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Breaking Up is hard to do

Actress Scarlett Johansson and musician Pete Yorn pair up to craft infectious pop

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Every night, countless men dream about Scarlett Johansson, but only one guy can say his fantasy came true.

In 2006 singer-songwriter Pete Yorn dreamt that he and the burgeoning blond movie star recorded a duets album together. When he woke up, he did what any well-connected musician would do — he called Johansson and told her he wanted to work with her.

"I've known Pete for several years," says Johansson on the phone from New York. "It was a welcome surprise to be asked to do the album."

Yorn didn't just want Johansson to sing on the album, though, he wanted her to channel another silver screen siren, Brigitte Bardot. He would play the part of Serge Gainsbourg, a legendary Parisian singer, and together the two would create a version of the 1968 duet disc, Bonnie and Clyde.

"When I thought of Brigitte, my mind just went to Scarlett," says Yorn. "Whether I knew her or not my mind would have gone to her. I felt her presence. Whether she was a professional singer or not was irrelevant."

At the time Yorn and Johansson made the disc, the actress had yet to record Anywhere I Lay My Head, her album of Tom Waits covers that came out last year. So when she went into the studio with Yorn, her singing credits were few and far between.

"When I was a kid I took a lot of vocal lessons," she reveals. "And I had recorded a couple things here and there, so I was familiar with the recording process I guess. But I wasn't nervous because there was nothing to lose."

It took three years, but her recording sessions have finally seen the light of day. The disc, Break Up, delves into the complex feelings and heartache that comes with a failed relationship. While it's no Bonnie and Clyde, and Johansson's vocals sound a bit flat, it's still an infectious pop record. If anything, this album will do wonders for Yorn, who's written some of the strongest songs of his career.

There's no doubt these tunes are as good as anything on store shelves, so why did it take so long to release?

"When we made it we just did it ourselves, for fun," Yorn explains. "We never really had a plan for it. And Scarlett was working on her projects and I was doing my stuff and we let the time go."

Eventually they decided to play some of the songs for friends, and they were encouraged by the warm reception.

But despite the wait, Johansson's says she can still feels the tunes.

"I'm very sentimental about it," she admits. "It captured a place and time where we were both experimenting. I was really proud of it then, but when I heard it fully mastered I was really excited about it. And now it has its own little life."

WARNER MUSIC PHOTO

Scarlett Johansson and Pete Yorn collaborated on the new album Break Up.

"It captured a place and time where we were both experimenting ... when I heard it fully mastered I was really excited about it. And now it has its own little life."
Scarlett Johansson

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Beatles fans flood record shops

It was a bit of Beatlemania all over again today as Canadian record stores faced a flood of fans clamouring for the two new remastered box sets, CD reissues, and a Fab Four-themed Rock Band video game.

In Toronto, HMV's flagship store sold out of the limited edition box sets within about 40 minutes, according to an employee.

Both sets include the entire Beatles catalogue remastered on CD for the first time.

One set has the Beatles' classics mixed into stereo, while a super limited-edition mono set is available for purists.

HMV Canada's director of product Ken Kirkwood says sales have been consistently strong right across the country and anything with the Beatles name on it is flying out the door.

He says the chain's Top 15 selling CDs are all Beatles remasters, while the various versions of the new Rock Band game are dominating the Top 5 video game chart.

"It's right across the board," Kirkwood said of the Beatles frenzy at HMV stores. "I don't think there's a place in Canada where there are people that aren't (Beatles) fans."

He said the mono box set would definitely be sold out across the country by the end of the day, while a few stereo sets might still be kicking around.

All the Beatles albums were also rereleased individually for those who didn't want to shell out for the box sets ($189 for the stereo package and $219 for the mono) and Kirkwood said the top seller was Abbey Road. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Beatles remastered catalogue and Rock Band game are now out.

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DINNER & TOURNAMENT

M&M for the family dinner
On Thursday, Sept. 17, M&M Meat Shops will once again encourage Canadians to enjoy the tradition of the family dinner. For each participant who registers at NationalFamilyDinnerNight.com, $1 will be donated to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

●●●●● INSPIRED; ●●●● VERY GOOD; ●●● PALATABLE; ●● HO-HUM; ● NEVER AGAIN

Black Skirt: Cute, cosy and OK fare

STEPHANIE DICKISON
TorontoUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

Black Skirt
3 Charles St. E.
Toronto
416-935-0240

Rating: ●●●

Black Skirt is a new restaurant in an old location (Wish). That's a tough sell for the fickle dining crowd, but what helps is its space.

What looks like a converted house has nooks to snuggle in, as well as two fairly open — yet cosy — areas and a patio replete with a small fountain.

The charm extends to the decor: Cushy couches, low-key furnishings and the resto's trademark, a woman hunched over, feeding pigeons — very modern with a nod to Southern Italy, the cuisine served here.

On the web

• Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/food

The staff is friendly and accommodating. And the food is OK. The Antipasti Platter is good, but still ordinary. Sopressata, prosciutto, olives, etc. — it's something that you could do at home.

The main dish, Ravioli with Brown Butter and Sage is smooth — delicate, savoury ground veal enveloped in stamp size packets — but the dry pastry disappoints, despite the puddle of olive oil that I am assured includes brown butter.

However, the space and service made it an enjoyable night out. Which for a girl who's all about the food, is definitely a first.

STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Ravioli with Brown Butter and Sage

Global Peasant blog online

• Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
• Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe for raw Leek and Potato Soup — the leeks are fresh from the garden.

Dining out

OAXACA – YOU DON'T PRONOUNCE THE "X"
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HAVANA GOOD TIME
From Sept. 24-26, The Havana Cultura Festival takes over Toronto streets. Celebrate the weekend with Cuban culture — free concerts, cigar rolling demonstrations and of course, the food! Julie's Cuban Restaurant, Delux and others offer authentic Cuban fare. Check out havana-cultura.com/canada for more information.

In brief

MUST-HAVE DRINK Get your lime on with Brick Brewing Co. Limited's new Red Baron Lime with 100 per cent natural lime flavor. Local, limey and $9.35 for a six-pack plus deposit at The Beer Store.

HAUTE EATS The Toronto International Film Festival takes over the city today through next Saturday and that means haute eats. The "Official Hospitality Partners" includes the Windsor Arms Hotel, Rosewater Supper Club and Caju.

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Mix of Six

Metro taps into today's best entertainment and event picks

MUSIC Toronto R&B singer-songerwriter Sean Jones performs at the Super Market, 268, Augusta Ave., 9 p.m., $8.

FESTIVAL The Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen St. W., kicks of 10 days of live show, cocktails and events as part of Film Fest 09. The event coincides with the Toronto International Film Festival. thedrakehotel.ca

FESTIVAL See Isabella Rossellini's critically acclaimed short films and art installation highlighting the eco-challenges and reproductive habits of marine animals in a humorous way at the Royal Ontario Museum. rom.on.ca

SCIENCE It's a voyage around the world at the Ontario Science Centre: IMAX Dome today, with films about the Great Lakes, Alps, and a look under the sea. Various times. ontariosciencecentre.ca

FREE EVENTS Yonge-Dundas Square plays host to a number of TIFF-related events starting at noon. The daily events will last through the film festival. Visit ydsquare.ca for a list of activities.

THEATRE The hills are still alive and singing at the Princes of Wales Theatre, where the hit musical Sound of Music continues its run. Visit mirvish.com for more information.

• Have an event you would like to see listed? Send an email to listings@metronews.ca or tweet it to @metrotoronto

In brief

TONY AWARDS Broadway's fall shows haven't even arrived yet but the date for the 2010 Tony Awards has been set — Sunday, June 13 — at Radio City Music Hall. Winners of awards honouring the best of the 2009-2010 Broadway season will be announced during a live, three-hour telecast by CBS. The Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing, which present the show, say the cutoff for nomination eligibility will be April 29, 2010.

TONY DANZA Class is officially in session for Tony Danza in Philadelphia. The former Who's the Boss? and Taxi star is filming an A&E reality show called Teach. He's co-teaching an English class of 26 sophomores at a high school with a credentialed teacher. Danza spoke to parents at the school his first day Tuesday, reassuring them that he's qualified to teach because he's in the process of becoming certified. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brad Paisley leads CMAs with six noms

Swift nabs nod for show's highest honour

Brad Paisley leads Country Music Association Award nominees with six nods announced yesterday, while Taylor Swift snagged a nomination for entertainer of the year, the show's highest honour.

The 19-year-old sensation is the first female solo artist to be nominated for the top award since 2000.

Swift joins Keith Urban, George Straight, Jamey Johnson and Zac Brown with four nominations each.

The CMAs announced five categories on ABC's Good Morning America, and the rest later in the morning on the CMT network.

Swift's CD Fearless has sold more than three million copies and made her the top selling act in country and in pop.

Her competitors in the top category are Kenny Chesney, Strait, Paisley, and Urban. She was also nominated for female vocalist of the year, along with Miranda Lambert, Martina McBride, Reba McEntire and Carrie Underwood.

Darius Rucker — the former Hootie and the Blowfish singer whose transition to country music was embraced by fans — was nominated for male vocalist of the year, along with veterans like Strait, Paisley, Chesney and Urban.

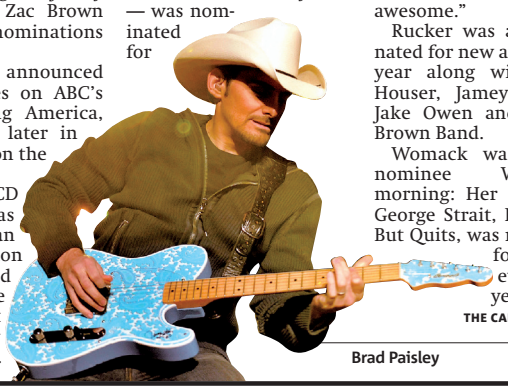
"It feels great. It feels like I'm part of the family," said Rucker, who along with Lee Ann Womack announced the nominations on ABC.

"I love being in country music because of the accessibility and the relationships you have with fans and with radio is awesome."

Rucker was also nominated for new artist of the year along with Randy Houser, Jamey Johnson, Jake Owen and the Zac Brown Band.

Womack was another nominee Wednesday morning: Her song with George Strait, Everything But Quits, was nominated for vocal event of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brad Paisley

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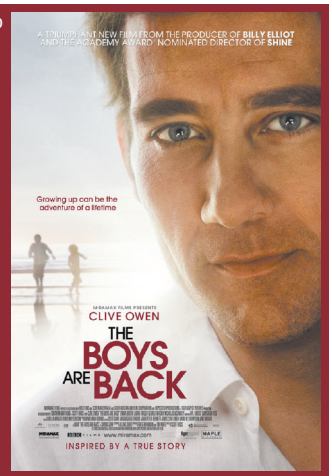

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
9/10/09	265	353	2	TVO	Megastructures		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Little Dorrit		Masterworks		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Big Brother 11 Eviction.		90210 (HDTV)		90210 (N)		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere Il	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Battle for a Continent (N)		Rise Up - Canadian Pop Music		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		30 Rock	Parks-Recreat	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	(10:01) Law & Order: UK		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		CTV News
	218	345	11	E!	*Some Girls* ★★ (1988, Comedy) Patrick Dempsey.				*La Cage aux Folles* ★★★ (1978, Comedy) Ugo Tognazzi.				News at 11 (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Météo	Visages	Villages	*Les Misérables* (Partie 2 de 2)			Folie-aventure	Météo
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Jihad
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	Sports Stories	Sports Stories	Supernatural (N)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Curtain Up!	Big Brother 11 Eviction.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NFL Kickoff	NFL Football Tennessee Titans at Pittsburgh Steelers. From Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.					
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Grey's Anatomy		Fringe (HDTV PA)		(10:02) Private Practice		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Fringe (HDTV PA)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Canada at War "Days of Infamy/Ebbtide"			Canada at War "Ebbtide"			Canada at War	
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Banks Show		My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Marketplace	CBC News: Tonight (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Banking on Geithner		CNBC Reports		Fastest Growing Companies		Banking on Geithner		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Florida Marlins at New York Mets. (HDTV) From Citi Field in Flushing, N.Y. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	WEC WrekCage (N)		NFL Kickoff	NFL Football Tennessee Titans at Pittsburgh Steelers. From Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.					
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz (N)	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN (N)	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Futurama: Bender's Big Score* (2007)		
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	602	567	27	W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		So You Think You Can Dance Canada Top 18.				Dance	Born to Be	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 "Blackout"		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 (N)
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Padrino Parte II (Parte 2 de 2)				George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Michael Jackson in Concert -- Bucharest		
	575	583	38	CMT	Karaoke Star "Winnipeg" (N)		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's City Hall		The Best Years (DVS)		Bones		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Camera	Hamlet Development.		*Where the Truth Lies* ★★ (2005, Drama) Kevin Bacon.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Gaia"		X-Weighted "Valencia"		X-Weighted "Kendra"		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People "Outbreak"		Zero Hour
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Handyman Superstar		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*Contact* ★★★ (1997, Science Fiction)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Nora's Hair Salon* (2004, Comedy) Jenifer Lewis.				The Game	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50	SPC	Comic Con	Fan Expo	Star Trek: Voyager		*The Scorpion King* ★★ (2002, Adventure) The Rock.				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Cribs	After	MTV News	Parent Control	Fantasy Fact.	Beatdown	Nitro Circus (N)	Pranked	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Road Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Perfection	Perfection	Ace of Cakes		Family
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*The Fabulous Baker Boys* ★★★ (1989, Romance-Comedy) Jeff Bridges.				
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Relative Madness		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		À communiquer		Mario Jean à son meilleur (N)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Red Skies*
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing A bus disappears.		The Closer "Aftertaste"		Da Vinci's Inquest		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(6:30) *Courage* (2009, Suspense)			Nurse Jackie	*Cadillac Records* ★★★ (2008, Drama) Adrien Brody.				Penn & Teller
	305	612	306	PIX	*End-Violence*	*The Badlanders* ★★★ (1958, Western)			*The Mummy Returns* ★★ (2001, Adventure)				*Liberty Stands*

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critics' corner

Rise Up - Canadian Pop Music in the 1980s

Video may not have killed the radio star, but it definitely changed music. This two-part documentary continues the story begun in "This Beat Goes On," chronicling the growth of Canadian music at the rise of the digital age, as CDs replaced cassettes, music videos exploded on television, and bands had to start paying attention to their look as much as their sound. The soundtrack includes Men Without Hats' "The Safety Dance" and Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69." 9 PM on CBC

The Vampire Diaries

Kevin Williamson ("Dawson's Creek," "Scream") is behind this adaptation of L.J. Smith's popular book series about a pair of vampire brothers, one good (Paul Wesley), one evil (Ian Somerhalder, "Lost"), as they battle for the soul of a beautiful teenage girl (Nina Dobrev) who recently lost both her parents in a car accident. Steven R. McQueen co-stars. 8 PM on CTV

It's a boy for Nicole and Joel

Nicole Richie and Joel Madden are the proud parents of their second child, a baby boy. Sparrow James Midnight Madden, weighing 7 lbs 14 oz., was born in "the very early hours" Wednesday, and joins older sister Harlow. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

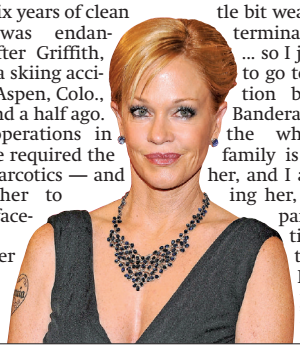
We support Melanie: Hubby Antonio

FAMILY FIRST Melanie Griffith's recent admission to a rehab clinic isn't something husband Antonio Banderas is going to sweep under the rug, people.com reports.

"It's not a rumour, but let me explain to you," Banderas, 49, told The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

"Melanie has been addicted for many years and we always came out. We said it out loud. It was OK, we were never embarrassed of the situation but what happened she was clean and sober for six years," he said.

That six years of clean living was endangered after Griffith, 52, had a skiing accident in Aspen, Colo., a year and a half ago. Three operations in her knee required the use of narcotics — and forced her to come face-to-face with her demons again.



"In March, she came to me and said, 'I'm feeling a little bit weak in my determination for this ... so I just thought to go to rehabilitation by myself,'" Banderas said. "So the whole entire family is supporting her, and I am supporting her, and at this particular time more than ever. I'm very proud of her."

More than that, the entire family is actively participating in Griffith's rehab program.

"We have been following some type of therapy with other families," he said. "I just say to families, 'Don't get embarrassed, just confront this problem head-on. And don't hide from that because there is a beautiful gift at the end of this tunnel, and it is the person that you love back, and that is what I am searching for.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Eddie Izzard is running all over England, Ashlee Simpson questions Ice-T's cool factor, Kim Kardashian puts comfort over safety, and Mika gets carried away.

- @eddieizzard Hello Derbyshire. This is my 38th marathon, 6 maras to go before final day running in London on 15th sept
- @ashsimpsonwentz At warped tour with husband so funny the people that think ice t is cool! Wow who defines badass this is embarassing?!
- @KimKardashian How annoying is a smoke detector when the battery is low..that non stop chirp! I hope I can sleep!
- @mikasounds on my way to Heat Magazine photo shoot, they're suspending me from wires?!?!

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Megan shows off her prudish side

A GOOD-GIRL? Megan Fox has vowed never to make a sex tape, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress is convinced if she saw herself having sex and "looking like a hippo" it'd put her off making love for the rest of her life.

"That's the last thing I want to see — what I look like having sex," she said. "It would take one shot of me not looking good and I would not be able to have sex ever again, because I would always just see myself looking like a hippo having sex."

For much the same reason, Fox, 23, has also vowed never to appear naked onscreen in any of her films, and is still mortified by photos of her in a flesh-coloured suit on the set of forthcoming cheerleader-turned-killer film Jennifer's Body.

She added to MTV: "I can't ever imagine myself doing nudity in a film. It lives forever, especially now, within the Internet. I just can't."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No way boyfriend hit Tila: NFLer's ex

CHEERLEADER As the investigation continues into reality TV star Tila Tequila's allegations that boyfriend Shawne Merriman assaulted and choked her, the NFL star's ex-girlfriend Gloria Velez comes to his defence. She tells TMZ Merriman "never laid a hand on me," adding that it would be "out of his character" to hit a woman.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Team Hudson-Rodriguez?

THAT WAS FAST Kate Hudson has become a regular fixture at Alex Rodriguez's Yankees games in New York, but this week it was her finger that had a new fixture.

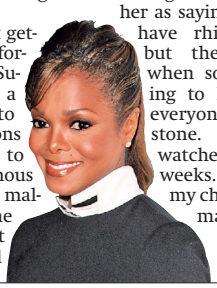
A source spotted a sparkling diamond ring on Hudson's hand at a home game as she tapped away on her BlackBerry, leading some to speculate a wedding announcement is coming up to bat, according to the New York Daily News.

Hudson's rep had no comment.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Janet plans own MJ tribute

COPING Janet Jackson is finally planning a public tribute to her late brother Michael Jackson. The singer is reportedly putting together an act to honour him for this weekend's MTV Video Music Awards, according to MSNBC.



"It's all about getting people to forget about the Super Bowl," a source close to the preparations said, referring to Jackson's infamous 2004 wardrobe malfunction. "She needs to get that behind her, she's not quite there yet."

Jackson also told Harper's Bazaar in a new interview that since her brother's death, she's been unable to watch television.

"It will drive you crazy," usmagazine.com quotes her as saying. "People can have rhinoceros skin, but there's a point when something's going to hurt you. Not everyone is stone, stone. I haven't watched the news in weeks. I had to ask my chef, 'How's Obama doing?'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna's dad disapproves of pics

PROTECTIVE PARENT Rihanna's recent steamy photo spread in Italian Vogue, including one topless picture, has been catching people's attentions. But one person not so thrilled with the images is her dad, Ronald Fenty.

"The photo was disturbing," he told Us Weekly.

He also wasn't a big fan of Chris Brown's apologetic interview on Larry King Live, which Brown gave after he was convicted of Rihanna.

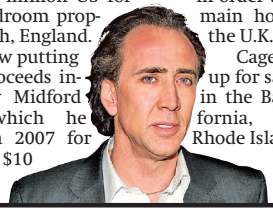
But at least Fenty has a sense of humour about it. "The costume he wore was so funny," he said. "That bow tie thing. He needs to bury that."

METRO WORLD NEWS

King Cage and his castle

SELL-OFF Nicolas Cage has sold one of his homes to help renovate his castle, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor received a reported $8 million US for his six-bedroom property in Bath, England.



He is now putting all the proceeds into nearby Midford Castle, which he bought in 2007 for around $10 million.

The castle has been empty for two years, and Cage is focused on completely renovating the historic property — built in 1775 — in order to make it his main home while in the U.K.

Cage has also put up for sale his homes in the Bahamas, California, Nevada and Rhode Island.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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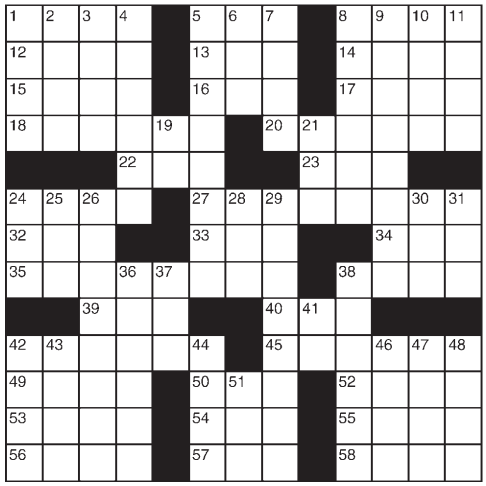


ACROSS

1 Kane's Rosebud, e.g.
5 Decline
8 Kelly or Krupa
12 Newsweek rival
13 Noon, in a sense
14 Yoked team
15 "Yeah, right!"
16 Army rank (Abbr.)
17 Raced
18 Fancy cake
20 "Star Wars" weapons
22 Pompous one
23 Up to
24 Help in wrongdoing
27 Model
32 Curse
33 Tex- — restaurant
34 Tokyo's old name
35 Champion of a cause
38 Vortex
39 Falsehood
40 River to the North Sea
42 Tristan's love
45 Bad news from the factory
49 MacDonald's place
50 Muumuu accessory
52 Buckeyes' home
53 Gratis
54 Past
55 Cavort
56 Knitting need
57 Neither partner
58 Category

DOWN

1 Unpartnered
2 Bart's sister
3 Send forth
4 Vanquish
5 "Oops"
6 Story of a lifetime?
7 Check
8 Tabloid topic
9 Made to leave
10 — -do-well
11 Remnants
19 Symbol for arsenic
21 $ dispenser
24 Mimic
25 Carton
26 Lewis or Clark
28 Foreign (Prefix)
29 Outside
30 Tack on
31 Trigger's rider
36 Rockefeller et al.
37 Actor Beatty
38 Go with
41 Northeasternmost st.
42 Questionable
43 Poet Teasdale
44 Verve
46 "Hey, sailor!"
47 Flaccid
48 Run easily
51 Id counterpart

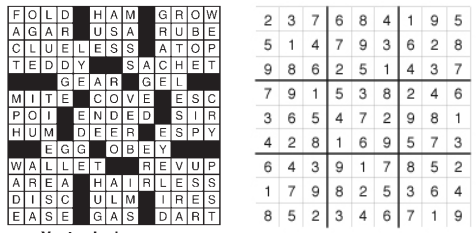
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7		5		4		6	
		4	8		9	7		
3								9
		1		8		5		
8								2
		5		9		6		
5								1
		2	1		6	3		
	8		2		3		9	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	3	7	6	8	4	1	9	5
5	1	4	7	9	3	6	2	8
9	8	6	2	5	1	4	3	7
7	9	1	5	3	8	2	4	6
3	6	5	4	7	2	9	8	1
4	2	8	1	6	9	5	7	3
6	4	3	9	1	7	8	5	2
1	7	9	8	2	5	3	6	4
8	5	2	3	4	6	7	1	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tofu Satay

INGREDIENTS:
14 oz (400 g) firm tofu
1 eggplant
1 red onion
8 fresh baby corn cobs, halved on diagonal
1/2 cucumber
3 1/2 cups (875 ml) bean sprouts
2 tbsp (25 ml) unsalted peanuts

SATAY SAUCE:
1/3 cup (75 ml) crunchy peanut butter
1 tsp (5 ml) salt-reduced soy sauce
1 tsp (5 ml) honey
1 tsp (5 ml) Chinese rice vinegar or cider vinegar
1 large garlic clove, peeled
1 scallion, chopped
3 oz (90 ml) reduced-fat coconut milk
1 tbsp (15 ml) sweet chili sauce

METHOD:
1: Soak 12 bamboo skewers in cold water to prevent them from burning on barbecue or under broiler. For satay sauce, combine peanut butter, soy sauce, honey, vinegar, garlic, scallion, coconut milk and chili sauce in blender or food processor for a thick, almost smooth mixture.
2: Preheat barbecue or broiler. Cut tofu and eggplant into 1-in. (2.5 cm) cubes. Cut red onion into chunks of equal size.
3: Blanch baby corn cobs in pot of boiling water 2–3 minutes. Drain, then refresh under cold running water. Cut cucumber into thin sticks 2 in. (5 cm) long. Arrange bean sprouts, cucumber sticks and corn on large platter and scatter peanuts over top. Set aside while you cook tofu and vegetable skewers.
4: Thread tofu, eggplant and onion onto soaked skewers, spacing pieces slightly apart. Place on foil-lined grill tray. Brush with some satay sauce, then broil (or barbecue) 10–12 minutes, turning skewers frequently and brushing with sauce. Gently heat remaining satay sauce in small pot or in dish in microwave until warm.
5: Set skewers of tofu satay atop salad, spoon remaining satay sauce over top and serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you are up front and honest with other people today they will be up front and honest with you.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You may be planning a change in your work or your daily routine but with Mercury now moving retrograde it might be wise to hold fire on the idea.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Your mind may be full of big ideas at the moment but you are advised not to take them too seriously, at least not for now.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The message of the stars for Cancer today is that you are allowing your thoughts a free rein.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You may not agree with the path that a friend or a relative has chosen to follow but you have no option but to accept it.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
No matter how cautious a Virgo you may be by nature you are in the mood to take risks today.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Because mind planet Mercury is now moving retrograde through your birth sign you must make sure that everything you do is built on facts.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Is your mind playing tricks on you? It certainly looks that way. Pluto, your ruler, endows you with an envious ability to see further and deeper.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You've had your suspicions that someone you thought you could trust has been telling you lies and what happens today will confirm it.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will find it easy to get through to employers today but because of Mercury you would be wise not to tell them too much.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
It seems like the more you expect of other people the less they deliver and the more disappointed that makes you.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A money matter may demand your attention but the planets warn if you act in haste you will do more harm than good.

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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

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1. Pointed end on the Titanic, for one (1)
2. Hurl a pitch under the strike zone (1)
3. Persistently question The Donald (1)
4. Fatigued "Rescue Me" star Denis (2)
5. NY NBA team's building blocks (1)
6. One who grieves for corner-sitter Jack (2)
7. Handing out poker cards on one's patellas (2)

ANSWERS
1. SHIP TIP 2. THROW LOW 3. PUMP TRUMP 4. WEARY LEARY
5. KNICKS BRICKS 6. HORNER MOURNER 7. DEALING KNEELING

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1) What is a stock market? *2 points*
a. An exchange where investors trade securities
b. A market for various types of company products and inventory
c. A market where big investment banks come to hire their professionals

2) Which of the following is a major North American stock market? *2 points*
a. The Great Canadian 50
b. The Nikkei
c. The NASDAQ

3) Monique contributes 15% of each paycheque to her RRSP and diversifies her investment among different asset classes. Monique utilizes which investment principle? *3 points*
a. Dollar cost averaging
b. Tax-deferral
c. Asset allocation
d. All of the above

4) Which of the following statements about a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) account is FALSE? *2 points*
a. The principal and interest/investment income earned in an RRSP account are not taxable to the investor until the money is withdrawn for income
b. The Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) allows you to withdraw up to $25,000 from your RRSP ($50,000 for a couple) to buy or build your first home
c. Only individuals over 65 years of age can open an RRSP account

5) The right to buy a specific quantity of stock at a pre-determined price before a particular date in time is called: *3 points*
a. A purchase right
b. A call option
c. A put option

6) The best way to begin building an investment portfolio is: *3 points*
a. To purchase securities from a minimum of three and a maximum of six countries
b. To determine a target asset allocation based on your risk tolerance and financial goals
c. To allocate over 80% of the portfolio to illiquid investments such as private equity and real estate

7) What term describes a company that raises financing for the first time by selling an equity stake in itself to the investor community? *2 points*
a. A subordinate share exchange
b. A distressed debt sale
c. An initial public offering (IPO)

8) An investment in a mutual fund allows an investor to achieve all of the following benefits, EXCEPT: *3 points*
a. Guaranteed returns in excess of the returns on a benchmark index
b. Diversifying among many different securities
c. Managing and rebalancing between sectors and asset classes at the portfolio manager's discretion

9) A lower-cost investment that allows an investor to replicate the performance of an index without having to physically trade all of the securities that comprise that index is called: *3 points*
a. A high-interest savings account
b. An inflation-linked note
c. An index Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

10) What is the best way that investors can educate themselves about the markets and investing? *2 points*
a. Read market trends and commentaries and research individual companies and sectors
b. Use online learning resources like the ones available through RBC Direct Investing including our tailored learning plans that offer something for every level of investor – whether you're experienced or just starting out
c. Opening up an online practice account in order to practice online investing without the risk of using real money
d. Doing all of the above for FREE with RBC Direct Investing Practice Accounts!

Answers: 1(a), 2(c), 3 (d), 4(c), 5 (b), 6(b), 7(c), 8(a), 9(c), 10 (d)

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GRADUATE RENTAL PROGRAM

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Last year's starting price is the lease/finance starting price as of December 2008 for a 2009 Elantra L/2009 Accent L 3 Dr/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL. Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited of $20,295/2009 Accent GL Sport of $13,895/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. ¥Prices calculated after deducting price adjustments off the lease/finance starting prices. Price adjustments: 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package is $20,195/2010 Sonata Limited model shown is $30,499. ♦¥Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra Touring/$1,495 for 2009 Accent/$1,765 for 2009 Santa Fe/$1,595 for 2010 Sonata, registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Elantra/2009 Elantra Touring/2009 Accent/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata models with a change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ΩThe Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,830 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. †Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2010 Sonata GL auto (6.0L/100km) and 2009 EnerGuide combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel Consumption for 2010 Sonata GL automatic (HWY 6.2L/100km, 46 mpg; CITY 9.5L/100km, 30 mpg) is based on manufacturer testing. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. ‡If you turn in a 1995 model year or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.), the Government will provide you with an incentive as part of their Retire Your Ride program. Upon presentation of proof from the Government acceptable to Hyundai that your old vehicle qualifies for its program, Hyundai Auto Canada will provide additional Clean Air Cash that must be applied to the purchase of a new Hyundai vehicle in the amount of $500/$500/$500/$500/$500/$500/$1,000/$1,000/$1,000/$1,000/$500/$500/$1,000/$1,000 (2009 Accent/2009 Elantra sedan/2009 Elantra Touring/2009 Elantra Limited/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata models with a 4-cylinder engine/2010 Sonata models with a V6 engine/2009 Santa Fe Limited/2010 Sonata Limited models with a V6 engine). Offer is a manufacturer-to-consumer incentive available on eligible new Hyundai vehicles delivered between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009 (the "Program Period"). Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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Program visit www.retireyourride.ca (for residents of B.C. visit www.scrapit.ca). Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.